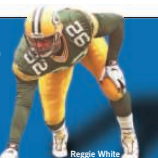


# STARS AND STRIPES®

**Former NFL  
star White  
dead at 43**

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Reggie White

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Jim Carrey  
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**Carrey takes  
sour turn in  
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Volume 2, No. 260 © SS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2004

## A heartbreaking toll

Experts: Large percentage of older troops serving in combat means more children at risk of losing a parent

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PHOTOS BY ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS/SHNS

Dakota Givens, 6, rests on Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Sizmore's lap in the House of Representatives chambers in Washington. Dakota's father, Pfc. Jesse Givens (inset), a member of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, was killed in Iraq when his tank fell into the Euphrates River. Dakota's mother, Melissa Givens, holding son Carson, was honored along with Fort Carson troops as part of Military Appreciation Day. Dakota and Carson are among almost 900 children who have lost a military parent to the war in Iraq.



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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**New York tiger owner:** A man sentenced to five months in jail after pleading guilty to keeping a tiger and an alligator in his New York City apartment was released from jail, and says he would like to open his own zoo.

Antoine Yates, 36, said he was freed Thursday after serving about 3½ months as a result of his guilty plea in July to reckless endangerment. He said the shortened term reflected time off for good behavior.

Yates said that he spent his jail time studying and working out physically and that he plans to apply for a job at the Bronx Zoo. "I would like to further my education by studying animal science and would like one day to open my own zoo," he said.

**Ground Zero redevelopment:** The Environmental Protection Agency has rejected state and federal requests to monitor the demolition of the Deutsche Bank building, adjacent to Ground Zero, and stepped away from agreements to coordinate with government agencies in the razing of the building.

On Dec. 14, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation announced a multi-phased plan for the demolition of the building, scheduled to begin next year. But EPA officials said they do not believe the area will be fully guarded from toxins in the structure.

The plan "doesn't give me confidence that people will be adequately protected," said David Newman, a member of the EPA's advisory panel told The New York Post in Sunday editions.

### Business

**Wall Street investigations:** Attorney General Eli Spitzer said Saturday that federal investigators are better equipped now to investigate corruption on Wall Street but vowed state investigators like himself will remain competitive in leading the fight against white-collar crime.

"The SEC is coming back to life and that's good, but we're going to continue to pursue our mandate," Spitzer said in a telephone interview. "We are going to be as aggressive going forward as we have been."

Spitzer said it was not good to force financial firms to face multiple interpretations of regulations by individual states. Still, he made clear his office would surrender no ground to reinvested federal agencies, like the Securities and Exchange Commission, despite published reports suggesting otherwise.

Spitzer commented two weeks after he declared he would run for governor in 2006, which will require large donations, some of which will come from Wall Street firms. He denied the announcement had anything to do with his campaign.

### World

**Space station supplies:** An unmanned Russian cargo spaceship on a vital supply mission docked at the international space station early Sunday, delivering badly needed food for the two-member U.S.-Russian crew, who have been forced to ration their dwindling supplies.

The Progress M-S1 docked at the orbiting station at 2:58 a.m. Moscow time on Sunday, said officials at Russian mission control in Korolyov outside Moscow. Workers at the Russian center broke into applause when the docking, shown on large television screens, was completed.



**Pope on gay marriage:** John Paul II blesses faithful from his studio's window overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Sunday. He urged politicians on Sunday to defend the institution of the family against what he called grave challenges, an apparent reference to efforts to legalize marriage between homosexuals.

The spaceship, which lifted off Friday from the remote Baikonur cosmodrome in the steppes of Kazakhstan, delivered about 2.5 tons of equipment and supplies, including more than 440 pounds of food for Russian cosmonauts Salizhan Sharipov and U.S. astronaut Leroy Chiao, who are in their third month on the station.

The cargo included Christmas and New Year's gifts for the crew from their families and friends, along with turkey for a belated Christmas dinner, space officials said.

**Jewish settler relocation:** Residents of a Jewish settlement in the southern Gaza Strip have agreed to move to a community inside Israel beginning in March, an Israeli official said Sunday.

The government's deal with Peat Sadeh would make it the first settlement to be dismantled under the government's plan to pull out of the Gaza Strip next year.

Yonatan Bassi, head of the government administration in charge of the withdrawal, confirmed the deal Sunday. He said a total of 25 Gaza families have finalized agreements with the government, 20 of them from Peat Sadeh.

Although the deal affects a tiny percentage of the 8,200-strong settler population of Gaza, it would give Prime Minister Ariel Sharon an important boost. The settler leadership has pledged mass resistance to the evacuation, which is scheduled to begin next summer, and Israeli officials are concerned about the possibility of violence.

**Sudan violence:** Prime Minister Tony Blair's office on Sunday dismissed a newspaper report that he had ordered the military to prepare 3,000 troops for a possible mission to Sudan's violence-torn Darfur region. "I don't recognize that story at all," a Blair spokesman said on condition of anonymity. "Our position on Sudan has been made clear. Basically, what we are doing is providing whatever help we can to the Afri-

can Union force and we're working with the African Union and the U.N. to resolve the situation there," the spokesman said.

The Independent newspaper, which cited no sources, reported Sunday that Blair had told military bosses to prepare plans that could be implemented if he decides to order British troops to Sudan next year. The newspaper said military chiefs would discuss in early January the possibility of sending forces as part of a European Union effort.

**Austria cable car fire:** Relatives of 155 skiers and snowboarders killed in an alpine cable car fire in Austria in 2000 will press on with civil lawsuits seeking damages, despite a setback in a U.S. court, a lawyer representing the families said Sunday.

Last week's ruling by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan, which rejected the idea of class action status and a single liability trial for the victims' families, did not deprive relatives of other ways to seek compensation, attorney Ed Fagan told the Austria Press Agency.

Claims against Siemens AG, Siemens USA, Bosch Rexroth AG, Bosch Rexroth USA and Omniglow have been refilled in U.S. courts, Fagan said. Relatives allege the companies, along with Gletscherbahn Kaprun AG, which operated the cable car, were partly responsible for the Nov. 11, 2000, inferno.

The victims were headed for a day of fun on a glacier atop the Kitzbühel mountain near Kaprun, a popular ski resort 60 miles south of Salzburg in the heart of Austria's Alps, when the cable car bringing them to the summit caught fire in a tunnel.

### War on terrorism

**El Salvador troop deployment:** The only country in the Western Hemisphere besides the United States to fielding soldiers in the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq may extend its troop deployment beyond a scheduled return early next year, El Salvador's president said Saturday.

"We're helping the Iraqi people, and if there is the need to prolong our presence, if the authorities need it and we can help, I would not have a problem," President Tony Saca said.

A decision will be made after the Jan. 30 elections in Iraq, he said.

El Salvador is the only Western Hemisphere country with soldiers in Iraq, besides the United States in Iraq, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic withdrew their troops.

Salvadoran forces have been in Iraq since August 2003, with 380 troops currently serving there.

**Syria accusations:** Syria on Sunday dismissed as "baseless and non-objective" accusations that it is training and helping insurgents who attack government and U.S.-led coalition forces in Iraq.

The Al-Baath daily newspaper of the ruling Baath party said the charges were a "misleading campaign" that seeks to blame Syria for events in Iraq.

Najaf's police commander Ghalib al-Jazari said Saturday that one of the six people detained on suspicion of organizing last week's bombing in the Iraqi holy city Najaf, an Iraqi named Ali Hussein, had confessed to receiving training in a Syrian camp under the supervision of a Syrian military officer. But al-Jazari told the Al-Jazeera Arab satellite station that he was not accusing Syria of being behind the bombing.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Saca



Spitzer

# Iraqi general: Suicide bomber was not Guard

By BASSEM MROUE

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Last week's suicide attack in a U.S. base in Mosul was not carried out by a member of the Iraqi security forces, although the attacker may have been wearing an Iraqi uniform, the head of Iraq's armed forces said Sunday.

"Certainly he was not a member of the National Guards because all of our men stationed in the base have been accounted for," Gen. Babaker B. Shawkat Zuhairi said in an interview with The Associated Press.

He spoke as the Ansar al-Sunna Army group, which has claimed responsibility for the Mosul strike, released a video of what appeared to be the actual bombing.

On Tuesday, an attacker blew himself up in a crowded mess hall at the Marez base just south of Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad. The explosion, the deadliest strike on a U.S. military facility, triggered a wide-ranging investigation into how the attacker penetrated the heavily guarded area.

Asked about President Bush's comments in which he said members of Iraq's fledgling military force were fleeing from combat, Zuhairi replied: "I think the president received misleading information."

The general said none of his soldiers had deserted from the battlefield, but acknowledged that some recruits undergoing training decided to quit after they were told they would be posted to the restive city of Fallujah that was retaken from insurgents last month by U.S. and Iraqi troops.

Zuhairi claimed that foreign fighters are still infiltrating into Iraq from Syria.

"I don't know if the [Syrian] government is closing its eyes or the terrorists are finding their ways to cross," Zuhairi said.

Zuhairi said six Arabs using forged Iraqi identity cards were detained near the Syrian border on Thursday. He said the men



This photograph released by the U.S. Army on Friday shows a dining hall at a U.S. military installation in Mosul, Iraq, where a large explosion on Dec. 21 left 22 dead and many more injured.

were detained with explosives in their possession.

Zuhairi's comments came a day after Najaf's police commander, Ghaleb al-Jazairi, said they detained an Iraqi who confessed to receiving training in a camp in Syria under the supervision of a Syrian military officer. The man was apparently involved in a bombing in Najaf earlier this month that killed 54 people.

Syria on Sunday dismissed al-Jazairi's statements as "baseless and nonobjective."

Zuhairi said the troubled northern city of Mosul was now under control of U.S. and government forces and that "more military units are being sent there to restore calm."

The base where Tuesday's attack occurred in Mosul also was used by members of Iraq's security forces. Three members of the

Iraqi National Guard — a paramilitary internal security force — also died in the blast.

The U.S. military said it appeared likely that an individual in an Iraqi military uniform — who was probably wearing an explosive-laden vest — carried out the attack.

"That is possible because uniforms of National Guards, police and army are available in the market," said Zuhairi. "It is not difficult for a person to wear one."

The Ansar al-Sunna Army group has claimed responsibility for the attack saying it was a suicide attack.

The dead included 18 Americans — 13 servicemembers and five U.S. civilian contractors — and three Iraqi guardsmen and one unidentified "non-U.S. person," according to figures released by the U.S. military.

Of the 69 wounded, 44 were U.S. military personnel and the remainder American civilians, Iraqi troops and other foreigners.

Zuhairi said Iraqi forces are getting stronger every day and that he expected them to be capable of replacing the Americans within six months to a year.

"The insurgents are getting weaker. Hardly a day passes without detaining or killing dozens of them," he said.

Also Sunday, police in the northern city of Kirkuk captured two brothers, Rasem Qara and Abdul-Basit, who allegedly confessed to having links with Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's Al-Qaida in Iraq network, Brig. Gen. Sarhad Qader said.

In Baghdad, masked gunmen assassinated a high-ranking Iraqi police officer, Col. Yassin Ibrahim Jawad, and wounded his two bodyguards, police said.

## Video shows footage of the attack on U.S. base in Mosul

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The radical Islamic group that claimed responsibility for the deadliest attack on a U.S. base in Iraq released on Sunday dramatic videotape showing three militants describing their plans to carry out the suicide bombing, which killed more than 20 people.

The footage also shows what appears to be the attack itself, showing a fireball rising up and a torn white tent. In the Dec. 21 attack, a bomber — probably dressed in an Iraqi military uniform — slipped into a dining tent packed with soldiers eating lunch and set off his explosives at Marez base on the outskirts of the city of Mosul in northern Iraq, according to U.S. officials.

Ansar al-Sunna issued a statement soon after saying it carried the attack out.

In the new video, which carried a Dec. 20 date on the footage, three guerrillas clad in black, wearing face masks and carrying AR-17 automatic rifles described their plans.

One of the men read a statement saying another of the guerrillas was identified as Abu Omar al-Musli. The video would carry out the attack by breaking into the base through the perimeter fence. The man reading the statement then embraced the bomber, who was wearing an explosives-laden vest. "He will take advantage of the change of guards. We have been observing their schedule for a long time. This lion will then proceed to his target and will take advantage of lunch time. He will storm the dining room where the crusaders and their [Iraqi] allies are gathered," said the man.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, Dec. 25, 2004, at least 1,323 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1034 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is seven higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Thursday.

The British military has reported 75 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,185 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 925 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Army 1st Lt. Christopher W. Barnett, 32, Baton Rouge, La.; died Thursday in Baghdad, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 156th Army Regiment, 256th Brigade Combat Team, Shreveport, La.

## U.S. officials denied abuses in Cuba

By CAROL D. LEONNIG

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — At least 10 current and former detainees at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have lodged allegations of abuse similar to the incidents described by FBI agents in newly released documents, claims that were denied by the government but gained credibility with the reports from the agents, their attorneys say.

In public statements after their release and in documents filed with federal courts, the detainees have said they were beaten before and during interrogations, "short-shackled" to the floor and otherwise mistreated as part of the effort to get them to confess to being members of al-Qaida or the Taliban.

Even some of the detainees' attorneys acknowledged that they were initially skeptical, mainly because there has been little evidence that captors at Guantanamo Bay engaged in the kind of abuse discovered at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison.

But last Monday, the American Civil Liberties Union released FBI memos, which it obtained

through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, in which agents described witnessing or learning of serious mistreatment of detainees.

"On a couple of occasions, I entered interview rooms to find a detainee chained hand and foot in a fetal position, to the floor, with no chair, food or water," an unidentified agent wrote on Aug. 2, 2004, for example. "Most times they had urinated or defecated on themselves, and had been left there for 18, 24 hours or more."

But Dickum, a Washington attorney for one of the detainees, said that "now there's no question these guys have been tortured. When we first got involved in this case, I wondered whether this could all be true. But every allegation that I've heard has now come to pass and has been confirmed by the government's own papers."

A Pentagon spokesman has said the military has an ongoing investigation of torture claims and takes credible allegations seriously.

Pentagon officials and lawyers say the military has been careful not to abuse detainees and has complied with treaties on the handling of enemy prisoners "to the extent possible" in the middle of a war.



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH GIORDONO/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. William Gamble watches as a Humvee flips over into a canal during a Christmas Day patrol near Taji, Iraq.



Members of an M-88 crew attach chains to the Humvee and prepare to pull it out. The 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry was making the Christmas Day patrol.



Sgt. Drew Neason is helped out of the Humvee after being trapped briefly. The Christmas Day patrols were hampered by deep mud and rain.

# Christmas patrol greeted by mud, firefight

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

TAJI, Iraq — It was a Christmas they'll always remember.

Or maybe one they'll want to forget.

First, a Humvee flipped over into a canal, temporarily submerging an inverted Sgt. Drew Neason. Then on the way back from the patrol, two more Humvees slipped off the muddy trails. Later, Pvt. Anibal Lugo was forced to fire warning shots at a car that apparently wanted to ram the convoy. In between, the 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment soldiers got into a firefight.

"I've been shot at more this Christmas than all the other ones combined," 2nd Lt. Stan Westmoreland said, shaking his head as the convoy returned to its base after a cold, wet Christmas Day patrol through ankle-deep mud.

The day started out like any other, save for the slow drizzle of rain that had begun early Christmas morning.

As Westmoreland gave the platoon a patrol briefing, he emphasized the possible dangers: insurgents looking for a Christmas strike, several possible roadside bombs found along well-used routes, slick roads.

The last one came into play first. As the convoy traveled along country roads paralleling canals filled with waist-high water and reeds, the rain turned the trails to a thick, muddy slurry.

When the lead Humvee nearly slid off the road, the soldiers got out. Soon, it was teetering on the edge of the road.

The platoon attached the first Humvee to another and tried to pull it back onto the road. Instead, the side of the road caved in, flipping the Humvee into the canal.

As soldiers shouted for a medic and rushed to pull out Neason, who had been in the driver's seat, the wheels spun and smoke poured out from the upside-down vehicle.

When a soaking-wet Neason emerged from the Humvee shaken but uninjured, everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

"I could feel it start to go, so I just braced myself," Neason told Sgt. William Gamble, one of the first to reach the vehicle and pull Neason out. "I could hear you yelling and I yelled back, but my head was underwater."

Once they were sure Neason was OK, the soldiers joked and laughed while an M-88 recovery vehicle came to pull the Humvee out of the canal.

As the soldiers waded into the canal to recover items from the Humvee, they shook their heads

at how they were spending Christmas. By then, it was getting dark and, backtracking along the road, the soldiers headed back to base.

Before long, Lugo yelled out that the convoy was taking fire. Red tracer rounds flew in, most passing a few feet ahead and above the vehicles. Lugo returned fire with his mounted 50-caliber machine gun. Sgt. Michael Honore popped down his window and shot back with his M-4 rifle.

A few flares were shot into the air about 200 meters away from the convoy, and the firing continued.

Later, the soldiers speculated about who was shooting at them — whether it was insurgents or possibly a nervous Iraqi National Guard checkpoint near a main road.

"Merry (expletive) Christmas," someone muttered.

On the last stretch of road before the camp, a car sped toward the last Humvee in the column. Lugo, in the gunner's seat, flashed a light at it, warning the driver to back off. When the car kept coming, he put two warning shots into it with his 50-caliber.

Finally, the convoy rolled through the gates of Camp Cooke with 30 minutes to spare before the dining facilities stopped serving their special Christmas dinners.

As the Humvees pulled up to the weapons clearing station, where soldiers made sure no live rounds were still in their guns, Lugo broke into a set of Christmas carols from up in the gunner's hatch.

"Although it's been said, many times, many ways," Lugo sang, remarkably on key, "Merry Christmas to you."

E-mail Joseph Giordono at: giordonoj@stps.osd.mil

## Reason for the season

AP photos

Sgt. Angela Damon of Buckfield, Maine, sings Christmas carols during a midnight Christmas service at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq, on Saturday.



U.S. Marines in Iraq sit inside a dining hall used as a chapel, while a Marine chaplain delivers a midnight Mass in celebration of Christmas, at Hurricane Point Marine Base in Ramadi, Iraq.

## Troops send TV greetings to families

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — More than two dozen soldiers assigned to 1st Cavalry Division units got to send greetings to their loved ones on a variety of local and national TV news programs over the holiday weekend.

And a few got to see their relatives in the flesh.

Members of the division's 122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment turned part of their at Camp al-Tahreer office into a remote TV studio, broadcasting live greetings to CNN, Fox News, the Today Show and local TV stations throughout the country.

Spc. Chad Wade of the 458th Engineer Battalion made a quick phone call home before his TV appearance.

"Put on Channel 9," he said before joining three other soldiers on Oklahoma City's KWTW's morning news.



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Travis Habbab, left, and his father, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Paul Habbab, reunited in Baghdad to send holiday greetings to their families in Harker Heights, Texas, live on the "Today Show."

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Paul Habbab and his son, Capt. Travis Habbab, reunited with their families on the "Today Show."

Back in Harker Heights, Texas, Paul's wife, Linda, and daughter, Karissa, joined with Travis' wife, Tara, and their 2-year-old daughter, Haven.

The event was even more special, the Habbabs agreed, because they would get to see each other, something they only do

every few months.

Paul is assigned to the division's headquarters at al-Tahreer while his son, Travis, is an Apache helicopter pilot with Company B, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment at Camp Cooke north of Baghdad.

The last time father and son saw each other was for Paul's birthday in October.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.estrps.osd.mil



# "We're all coming back"

## 660th Transportation Company mourns and prays for every comrade lost in Iraq

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

**LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq** — Since arriving in Iraq in February, the soldiers of the 660th Transportation Company pray together before every mission that takes them out on the country's dangerous roads.

Now, with nearly 1 million miles behind them and four lives lost on those roads, they've added to their pre-convoy ritual.

"We give each other a big hug," said Sgt. Joe Bolland, 26, a cop back in Coriopolis, Pa.

The 660th, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Zanesville, Ohio, part of the 7th Transportation Battalion, arrived in Iraq with 144 soldiers. As of mid-December, the company was down 26 soldiers.

"What are we down to — 118?" Sgt. Rocco Elia asked Spc. Chris Antoniou, who nodded.

Three soldiers were killed in action and a fourth died in a traffic accident. Others have gone home with serious wounds.

Company soldiers have been awarded more than 30 Purple Hearts. Some of the awards are still pending.

The soldiers live in a warehouse on the far side of the base. They've divided the space into individual quarters and decorated them like college dorm rooms. Because they are so far from the main part of the base, their food is delivered to their private dining area.

"We're the tightest company in the battalion," said Capt. Joe Shalosky, the company commander.

The 660th carries fuel and escorts contracted trucks all across Iraq. The first month in Iraq was easy. There were no roadside bombs and no ambushes from

palm groves.

"They've spent long nights on the road together," Shalosky said. But the unit's sense of security was shattered in April when Spc. Jason Goldsmith was injured by a landmine. He was taken to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., for treatment.

The next month, the company suffered its first death. Sgt. James Harlan, 44, a father of five, was killed May 14 when an abandoned vehicle blew up as his vehicle passed.

"We were on the road together," said Antoniou, 37, a steel worker and motorcycle mechanic from West Virginia. "I was probably four vehicles behind him."

The convoy commander had called on the radio to watch out for the abandoned vehicle, a favorite hiding place for roadside bombs.

"As soon as she got done saying that, the (bomb) went up," Antoniou said.

Harlan, from Owensboro, Ky., was taken to the combat support hospital in Baghdad, where he died four hours after surgery.

"He was a good guy. He was just real," Antoniou said. "He spoke what was on his mind. He was just a good old boy from Kentucky. Everybody loved him."

"You could always guarantee you were going to laugh your ass off when he was around," said Spc. On Sept. 18, Spc. Allen Nolan was fatally injured when a roadside bomb blew up on his vehicle passed. He was 38, had two kids and was two weeks away from going home on leave to Marietta, Ohio.

Elia, 33, and Nolan had been buddies for eight years. Their families knew each other. They planned to vacation together next summer. Elia was in the gun



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

**Sgt. Rocco Elia, Sgt. Joe Bolland, and Spc. Chris Antoniou, left to right, pose with a painting done by Sgt. Aaron Anslow to honor a fellow 660th Transportation Company soldier killed while on duty in Iraq.**

truck behind Nolan when the bomb blew. He went with Nolan to the hospital.

"We got to say we love each other to each other," Elia said. "Spc. Nolan, he volunteered for every mission," Elia said. "He'd get mad if he wasn't put on a mission. He considered it a slap in the face."

Instead of a vacation with his buddy, Elia plans to visit Nolan's grave when he returns to Ohio.

"I think that's going to be tough," he said, "seeing his name on the headstone."

When a roadside bomb killed Staff Sgt. Richard Morgan, 38, of Clairsville, Ohio, on Oct. 5, Bolland saw it happen. Morgan had welcomed Bolland to the unit back in 1998. Morgan came to his room every night in Iraq and played Play Station, sometimes while Bolland was trying to sleep.

"He was the convoy commander. He was in the lead vehicle," Bolland said. "I was in the truck right behind him."

When Bolland saw Morgan's vehicle disappear in a cloud of dust on the dark Iraq night, he knew it

was bad. But Bolland couldn't stop.

"The hardest thing was knowing I had to keep going. I couldn't stop to see if they were all right," Bolland said. "I was the lead military vehicle. I floored it as fast as it could go. I told everyone to stay to the right (because) there was a vehicle down on the left."

Bolland pulled into a Marine Corps checkpoint a couple of miles down the road and gathered the trucks together. A senior noncommissioned officer told them Morgan was dead.

"He asked me to say a prayer and, needless to say, it was the hardest prayer I've ever given," he said. "I got maybe three words out and I broke down."

Bolland, a bugle player, played taps at the memorial services for all four company soldiers, including Staff Sgt. Donald Davis, 42, of Saginaw, Mich., who was killed Aug. 24 when his truck overturned on a detour route near Falujah.

Bolland was given the option of not playing at Morgan's service because they were close friends.

"I said I wouldn't want anyone else to do it," Bolland said. "He was my sergeant, my friend. I can't think of anything better than to play taps until he's buried."

"I hadn't sunk in until I realized he wasn't coming over to play PlayStation," Bolland said.

The 660th Transportation Company soldiers make no bones about it. They love each other.

Their pre-mission prayers and hugs express a bonding that happens only in combat and continues after battles are over.

The soldiers admit they didn't know what to expect when they arrived nearly a year ago. But they remember the words of an NCO while they trained in the States for the mission.

"Trust me when I tell you," he said to them, "we're not all coming back."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.strips.com

## Ansar al-Sunnah army gains clout, eclipsing al-Qaida

BY RAWYA RAGHE

The Associated Press

**BAGHDAD** — The Ansar al-Sunnah Army has emerged from its roots as a little known militant group operating in northern Iraq to become the country's deadliest terror network, capable of carrying out spectacular strikes like last week's suicide bombing at a U.S. base and virtually eclipsing al-Qaida's cell in the war-torn nation.

Unlike al-Qaida, Ansar al-Sunnah is believed to be made up mainly of Iraqis, and its apparent strategy of targeting only Americans and those viewed as collaborating with them — Iraq security forces and Kurds — may have increased its support, in contrast to other groups that have hit more clearly Iraqi civilian targets.

Nearly five months after the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime in April 2003, Ansar al-Sunnah's first statement surfaced on the Internet, pronouncing itself "a group of jihadists, scholars, and political

and military experts" dedicated to creating an Islamic state in Iraq.

The statement was signed by the group's "emir," or leader, the previously unknown Abu Abdullah al-Hassan ibn Mahmud. Since then, it has carried out numerous bombings and attacks, particularly in northern Iraq — and shown its ruthlessness with the slaying in August of 12 kidnapped U.S. Navy construction workers, releasing video showing their deaths. In its deadliest operation, Ansar al-Sunnah claimed responsibility for Feb. 1 suicide bombings against two Kurdish political parties in Irbil, killing 109 people.

Tuesday's attack on U.S. forces at Mosul showed even greater sophistication and planning, killing 22 people, mostly American soldiers and civilians.

Now the group is warning Iraqis not to participate in the Jan. 30 elections, promising to attack polling stations.

But who exactly is behind Ansar al-Sunnah and how it was formed remains a mys-

tery. Some experts believe the group splintered from Ansar al-Islam, an al-Qaida-linked group established in September 2001.

Ansar al-Islam was founded by Mullah Krekar, who has been living as a refugee in Norway since 1991. The group vowed to set up a conservative Islamic state in northern Iraq, and its members have trained in Afghanistan and provided safe haven to al-Qaida members fleeing the U.S. invasion there.

The offshoot group may have changed its name to Ansar al-Sunnah — Arabic for "supporters of the sunnah," of the traditions of Prophet Muhammad — as an effort to appeal to Iraq's minority Sunni Arabs, experts suggest.

There is nothing to corroborate this theory except that the group mainly operates in northern Iraq where Ansar al-Islam is based.

Mohammed Salah, a Cairo-based expert on Islamic militancy, said research indi-

cates that the Ansar al-Sunnah Army was established by a mix of various Sunni Muslim anti-occupation factions that came together after the end of the war.

They chose the name Ansar al-Sunnah (loosely translated as "the supporters of the traditions of Prophet Muhammad") to distinguish the group from Shiite militias, Salah said.

The group now seems to include nationalists and other secular people opposed to the U.S. presence in Iraq, who are not typical religious fundamentalists or extremists but who "choose the color of Islam as a propaganda that sells well."

The group seems an Islamic government and Islamic law in Iraq, stressing its opposition to democracy, which it says replaces God's rightful rule with that of man.

Still, it remains unclear whether Ansar al-Sunnah is linked to Osama bin Laden's network, or whether it is actually competing with it.

U.S. officials have said Ansar al-Islam, its alleged parent group, is believed linked to al-Zarqawi.

# For the littlest survivors, the biggest loss

## Almost 900 U.S. kids have had a parent killed in Iraq

BY LISA HOFFMAN AND ANNETTE RAINVILLE

Scripts Howard News Service

Sad to the depths of his 4-year-old soul, Jack Shanabarger knew what he didn't want to be when he grows up: a father.

"I don't want to be a daddy because daddies die," the child solemnly told his mother after his father, Staff Sgt. Wentz "Baron" Shanabarger, a military policeman from Fort Pierce, Fla., was killed March 23 in an ambush in Iraq.

On that terrible day, Jack and his four siblings joined the ranks of the largely overlooked American casualties who, until now, have gone uncounted. Although almost daily official announcements tally the war dead, the collateral damage to the children left behind has not been detailed.

But, from Defense Department casualty reports, obituaries and accounts in hometown newspapers and family interviews, Scripps Howard News Service has identified nearly 900 U.S. children who have lost a parent in the war, from the start of the conflict in March 2003 through November, when a total of 1,256 troops had died.

Although comparably specific historical data is not available for other U.S. wars, military experts said the proportionally higher number of American children left bereaved by the Iraq war is unprecedented.

"This is a new state of affairs we have to confront," said Charles Moskowitz, a leading military sociologist and Northwestern University professor.

Overall, Americans in uniform today are far more likely to be married and have children than in the military of the past, Moskowitz and others said. And the reliance in Iraq on reserve forces who are likely to be older and more settled than active-duty soldiers — also means more offspring at home.

Even though the federal government provides an array of benefits for widows, widowers and minor children, more help is needed — including counseling — for at least 882 American children left without a parent from the war in Iraq.

"As much as we are concerned about veterans' programs, we now have to be concerned about orphan programs," Moskowitz said. "This is the first time we have crossed this threshold."

According to Scripps research, more than 40 percent of the 1,256 war dead through November were married, and 429 had children. At least half of the youngsters were 10 years old or younger. Among the parents who died were six female sol-



Surrounded by family members, Corey Shanabarger holds daughter Grace, 3, during the funeral for her husband, Staff Sgt. Wentz "Baron" Shanabarger, whose casket is carried at right by the Army Honor Guard from Fort Stewart, Ga., out of the Coleman and Ferguson Funeral Home in Dade City, Fla. Shanabarger was killed in Iraq in an ambush. He left behind his wife and five children.

PHOTOS BY ST. PETERSBURG TIMES/SHNS

diers who had borne a total of 10 children among them — another historic first for women in the U.S. military.

Perhaps most heartbreaking are the more than 40 troops who died without ever seeing their children. At least 34 wives were pregnant — four with twins — when their husbands died, and another 15 had babies while their spouses were deployed. While some of the latter were able to return home on paternity leave, most died before they could.

Among those who never once held their babies was Army 1st Lt. Doyle Hufstедler, 25, of Abilene, Texas, who was killed in March when a roadside bomb hit

his armored personnel carrier near Habbaniyah. In his uniform pocket, Hufstедler carried a sonogram picture of his unborn daughter, the only image he would ever have of Grace Ashley, who arrived six weeks after his death.

Ursula Pirtle, 27, of La Mesa, N.M., was killed Oct. 3, 2003, in an insurgent attack against the north of Baghdad. By all accounts, children also bring a measure of comfort to the bereaved spouses and other relatives, providing a tangible link to the parent who is gone. Hufstедler's widow, Leslie, said her daughter is a perpetual prod to get on with life.

"It's almost hard to look at her sometimes," Ursula Pirtle, who now lives in Harker Heights, Texas, wrote in a posthumous open letter to her husband. "I would give my right arm to get a

chance to see you two together. ... I know she would be the biggest joy you've ever known."

Despite their losses, Pirtle and most other surviving spouses say they still support the war. They say they are profoundly proud of their loved ones' willingness to give their lives for their country and to help bring democracy to Iraq. That pride helps their children cope as well.

Virginia Collier, of Harrison, Ark., found great solace in her husband's undimmed belief that the Iraq war was not only justified, but also engendering more good than the media has portrayed. A father of four, her husband, Army National Guard Sgt. Russell Collier, 48, was killed Oct. 3 trying to help a fellow soldier under fire in Taji, Iraq.

"He died doing what he loved," Veronica Collier told a local newspaper.

By all accounts, children also bring a measure of comfort to the bereaved spouses and other relatives, providing a tangible link to the parent who is gone. Hufstедler's widow, Leslie, said her daughter is a perpetual prod to get on with life.

SEE LOSS ON PAGE 7

## War's toll includes six moms

Army Pfc. Lori Piestewa was not only the first female American soldier killed in combat in Iraq, she was also the first U.S. military mother to die in the war.

In all, six mothers in uniform have died in Iraq between the start of the war in March 2003 and the end of November, leaving behind a total of 10 children. Overall, 27 women troops have died in the war.

Among the mothers were: ■ Piestewa, 23, who died in the March 23, 2003, ambush in which Pfc. Jessica Lynch was captured in Nasiriyah. She had two children, Brandon, 4, and Carla, 3. Both now are being raised by their grandparents in El Paso, Texas.

■ Another single Army mother, Spc. Jessica Cawvey, joined the Illinois National Guard to build a better life for her daughter, Sierra, 6. Cawvey died Oct. 6 when a roadside bomb exploded as her convoy passed near Fallujah.

Cawvey, 21, "wasn't the military type," her mother Sandra Cawvey, told a local newspaper. She enlisted in the Guard simply to help pay for college so she could get a decent job. Before she deployed to Iraq, Cawvey had been living with her parents and Sierra, and working on a bachelor's degree in accounting at Illinois State University in Normal, Ill.

The impact of Cawvey's death on Sierra was somewhat cushioned by the fact that the child is continuing to live with her grandparents. "She's doing just fine," said Clarence Cawvey, Jessica's uncle. "It's more like she lost a sister."

■ Less than a week after Cawvey died, Army Sgt. Pamela Osbourne was killed by shrapnel from a rocket attack on her camp in Baghdad. A native of Jamaica, Osbourne, 38, was a sergeant major. She was 14 with two dreams — to become a U.S. citizen and to serve in the military.

A medical condition could have kept her out of Iraq duty, but Osbourne was determined to serve her country, her husband Rohan Osbourne told a local newspaper in Hollywood, Fla.

While she was deployed, her husband tended to their three children, ages 9 to 19. A support specialist, Osbourne managed to call home almost every day, between 5 and 6 a.m.

She made her husband promise not to hide anything from the kids if the worst happened.

"Even if I come home in a box, you should know that I did it for [all of] you. Take care of the kids. Stay strong." Osbourne told her spouse.

— Lisa Hoffman



# 2 Mass. kids helping troops phone home

## Young entrepreneurs turn used cell phones into free calling cards for GIs

BY KEN MAGUIRE  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — For all the billions of dollars being spent on the war in Iraq, 14-year-old Brittany Bergquist is surprised that the Army doesn't do what she and her little brother do: help soldiers phone home.

"I'm kind of happy that they didn't supply them," she said, "because we've always wanted to do something for the soldiers."

With \$14 from their piggy banks, she and her 12-year-old brother Robbie started Cell Phones For Soldiers. In less than eight months, the organization has provided \$250,000 worth of prepaid calling cards for American soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait.

They raise money by collecting old cellular phones and selling them to companies that refurbish them for resale on the Internet, then use it buy the calling cards.

"I'm so happy that we can help them," said Brittany, an eighth-grader from Norwell, Mass.

It all started in April, when the family heard about a Massachusetts soldier who ran up \$7,600 in cell phone charges calling home from Iraq.

Cellular provider T-Mobile forgave much of the bill. But Brittany and Robbie figured there must be other soldiers — including their cousin, Donnie Williamson — who are stationed in Iraq and want to call home more often but can't afford it.

The Bergquist kids pooled their funds — \$14 — and got friends to kick in another \$7. They opened a bank account at South Shore Savings Bank, which was so impressed it contributed \$500.

Yard sales followed, and newspaper articles. Soon, national TV news crews were calling and the kids gave live interviews on morning shows.

Hundreds of schools and organizations, from Hawaii to Georgia, have started local chapters and become drop-off centers for used cell phones.

"It's hard doing everything," Brittany



Brittany Bergquist, 14, left, and her brother, 12-year-old Robbie, pose in their Norwell, Mass., home. With \$14 from their piggy banks, the pair started Cell Phones For Soldiers, which provides prepaid calling cards for American soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. The organization collects old cell phones and sells them to companies that refurbish them, then uses the money to buy calling cards for U.S. troops.

said. "But it doesn't matter to us. We think about how hard the soldiers work every day and they don't have a choice to stop."

On Tuesday, the Internal Revenue Service granted Cell Phones For Soldiers nonprofit status.

Many large companies have told the Bergquists they were waiting for the nonprofit status so their contributions are tax deductible, said their father, Bob Bergquist, a science teacher at Norwell Middle School. Mother Gail is also a teacher.

One challenge for the Bergquists has

been identifying troops before they deploy, because once they are overseas it gets harder to contact individual soldiers. The Pentagon only delivers mail from family or friends; undressed bulk mailings are prohibited.

"We fortunately live in an American society that's very generous [but] it overwhelmed our mailing system in the past," said Army Lt. Col. Joe Yoswa, a Defense Department spokesman.

He says soldiers can use phone banks and Internet cafes, but it's up to them to

pay the fees out of pocket.

Using a cell phone in Iraq can cost a soldier up to \$3 a minute in roaming charges, according to Bob Bergquist.

The Bergquists have traveled to Minnesota, Texas, Louisiana, and New York to personally hand out calling cards to soldiers about to be deployed to war zones.

"They've made sacrifices," Brittany skipped a statewide cheerleading competition, and Robbie has missed big soccer and hockey games.

"We have a scrapbook that we keep," Robbie said. "We look back at what we've done. It always helps keep us motivated."

The daily e-mails from soldiers and their families also help.

One wrote: "Hearing from family members is what keeps a soldier going and gives them the drive to get the job done and get home."

Helping families stay connected is the biggest reward, Brittany said.

"That's a big motivation, for families to know where their sons and daughters are at all times," she said.

They also get e-mails from people who oppose the war.

"We tell them we're not supporting or endorsing the war," Bob Bergquist said. "What we're concerned about are the soldiers. ... What we want to do is support them."

The Bergquist kids have quickly become role models. Brittany will be featured in an upcoming issue of Teen magazine. Child Housekeeping and Parade magazines are also doing stories.

But all the attention won't distract from their mission, the kids said.

"I think we're going to be doing this forever," Brittany said.

"As long as there are troops not home, we'll be doing this."

## Reserve forces put lives on hold while waiting for word on Iraq



Marine reservist Kevin Lackey poses Tuesday with his parents, Bruce and Theresa Lackey, in Willowbrook, Ill. Lackey is one of more than 1 million National Guard and Reserve troops who have their lives are on hold awaiting possible orders to Iraq.

BY DON BABWIN  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Kevin Lackey is eager to take what he's learned in the Marine Reserves into war in Iraq. Theresa Lackey can't bear to watch the news, for fear she'll see soldiers searching for the enemy in houses pockmarked by bullet holes — the kind of work her son has been training for.

The Lackeys live in suburban Chicago, but their story could be told from anywhere in the country. As accounts of the war and the soldiers fighting there dominate the headlines, there is a quieter story for more than 1 million National Guard and Reserve troops — waiting and wondering if they'll be sent to Iraq or sent back.

They've put their lives on hold, put off college, buying homes and cars, knowing they could join nearly 186,000 of their Guard and Reserve colleagues now on active duty, more than 60,000 of whom are in Iraq or Afghanistan.

They've said their goodbyes only to be told at the last minute they're not going anywhere — not yet, anyway — as their families brace for their deployment.

Kevin Lackey, 20, said his commanders were so sure his unit was going to be activated and deployed to Iraq this fall, "They told us to make our wills, tell family members to have a life without you and life with

you in a combat zone. Then that fell through."

"It's like a roller coaster," said Theresa Lackey. That's particularly true during the holidays, which she suspects will be her son's last at home before his ships out. "It makes us all more desperate to spend time with him."

Matt Comeaux also uses "roller coaster"

**"It's like a roller coaster."**

Theresa Lackey  
mother of reservist Kevin Lackey,  
who may be deployed

to describe the last few months. A sergeant in the Illinois National Guard, Comeaux said he learned last spring that his battalion was being activated this winter.

Knowing he would be gone for 18 months, the 36-year-old divorced father moved out of the house he was renting and put his belongings in storage. He even found a new home for his dog.

"How do you ask somebody to babysit your dog for a year and a half?" he asked.

A couple months before the unit was to leave, though, Comeaux found out he wasn't leaving because "there wasn't enough slots at my rank for me to go with

my battalion."

After being told he was next up if someone of his rank needed to be replaced, he found out he would not be going at all. Then, almost as soon as he told his 13-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter that he was staying home, he started hearing that he might be deployed after all.

In November, he was told he was being activated — in one week.

"I get to see my kids two weekends a month," Comeaux said. "I didn't think I would be able to say goodbye to my kids."

About two days later, those orders were canceled, too.

Such uncertainty is a reality of being at war, when needs for more troops can change rapidly, said Major Tim Franklin, spokesman for the Illinois Army National Guard. "Those decisions are made at the Pentagon and (U.S. Army Forces Command) based on the needs of commanders on the ground in Iraq," he said. "And those needs change."

Comeaux isn't angry but describes the situation as "very emotional."

"It's up and down, not knowing what is going on," said Comeaux, who is staying at a friend's house, living out of a suitcase.

Comeaux said most of the guardsmen he knows don't want to go to Iraq, and some cringe when he calls to give them an update. But "they know that's their job," he said.



# Air Force captain awarded Bronze Star

## Crow improvised to get needed supplies delivered to Balad and Baghdad

BY BEN MURRAY  
Stars and Stripes

Normally, going out to pick up dinner for your fellow airmen isn't an action that will earn you a Bronze Star.

But when you're an Air Force captain in Iraq leading Army-style convoys of rented Chevrolet Suburbans into Baghdad to retrieve fresh food and supplies for your fellow airmen, your actions tend to get noticed.

That's what happened to Capt. Shirley Crow of the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, who was formally awarded the Bronze Star at Ramstein Air Base on Dec. 17 for her service in Iraq in the late summer of 2003.

That's what Crow worked at Kirkuk Air

Base as a squadron operations officer, organizing fleets of Air Force planes and Army vehicles, along with their cargo. But at the time, Army convoy operations were still in their infancy, Crow said. Tuesday, supplies for airmen weren't reaching the northern Iraq air base.

"The stuff would get to Baghdad and that's as far as it would go unless we went and got it," she said.

So the 36-year-old captain did what any good airman would do: She improvised and

**"The stuff would get to Baghdad and that's as far as it would go unless we went and got it."**

**Capt. Shirley Crow**  
506th Expeditionary Logistics  
Readiness Squadron

found herself organizing ad hoc truck convoys to Balad and Baghdad, something she said she had "no training whatsoever" to do.

Crow said she and other airmen would hop in their unarmored Suburbans, "guns out the window [and] battle-rattle on" to depots to pick up

supplies.

In addition, halfway through her 128-day deployment Crow had to take command of her squadron when the acting commander went home on emergency

leave. In that job, Crow oversaw the movement of millions of gallons of fuel, thousands of passengers and tons of cargo, keeping the vehicles running and the airmen fed while under periodic mortar attacks, her medal citation reads.

Crow's commander, Lt. Col. Jay Jennings, Deputy Commander of the 435th Logistics Readiness Group, said he was not surprised to see Crow receive the award, having known her since she was a junior officer at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina.

"I could see then she was going to be an excellent operations officer," Jennings said.

Email Ben Murray at:  
murrayb@mail.strips.osd.mil

# Prison term for Vilseck soldier in child porn, steroids case

BY STEVE LEWIS  
Stars and Stripes

A Vilseck, Germany-based soldier will serve one year in prison after pleading guilty to charges of possessing anabolic steroids and child pornography.

Sgt. Sean M. Choy, 28, of the 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, also was ordered reduced to the lowest enlisted rank and handed a bad-conduct discharge by

the military judge, Lt. Col. Robin Hall, at a court-martial Dec. 16 in Vilseck, according to a trial summary released Thursday by the 1st Infantry Division's Staff Judge Advocate's office.

According to the summary, Choy acknowledged using his personal computer in late 2003 to surf pornographic Web sites on the Internet. During one session, it said, he downloaded about 10 images of pre-pubescent girls in sexually explicit

poses. In a search of his apartment, police found a diskette with some of the photos under his mattress, while others were on his computer's hard drive.

About the same time, the summary said, Choy ordered 1,000 anabolic steroid tablets from Thailand and wired a payment to the supplier.

German customs officials intercepted the shipment and ordered a search of Choy's off-base apartment.

According to the trial summary, that search turned up 96 steroid tablets, several vials containing liquid steroids, and a small cooler filled with syringes.

Choy's sentence will be reviewed by the court-martial convening authority, the Grafenwohr-based 7th Army Training Command. The sentence may be reduced, but it cannot be increased.

Email Steve Lewis at:  
LewisS@mail.strips.osd.mil

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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## IN THE STATES

## Holiday air travel turns into nightmare

Computer glitch cancels Comair flights; US Airways loses track of piles of luggage

The Associated Press

HEBRON, Ky. — Days of bad weather, a computer malfunction and sick airline employees put tens of thousands of travelers in holiday limbo Saturday, with Comair canceling all its flights and US Airways trying to reconnect thousands of pieces of luggage with their owners.

Thousands of waiting passengers milled about at Comair's hub at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. At Philadelphia International Airport, several hundred people stood in long lines at sparsely staffed US Airways check-in counters and piles of suitcases were scattered throughout the baggage claim area.

Cynthia Mayer, waiting to return home to Hilton Head, S.C., on a Comair flight from Cincinnati, lost both her flight and her luggage, and said her earliest flight home would be late Monday night.

"They offered me a toothbrush — a kit with a toothpaste and a toothbrush," Mayer said, chuckling.

Comair, a Delta Air Lines subsidiary, canceled all its 1,100 flights on Saturday because computer problems knocked out its system that manages flight assignments, company spokesman Nick Miller said. The cancellations affected 30,000 travelers in 118 cities, he said.

Comair put some of its passenger planes back in the air Sunday and the airline hoped to be operating a full schedule by the end of the week, a spokesman said.

"The situation is still pretty fluid. Our goal is to operate as many flights as possible," said Nick Miller, a spokesman for the Delta subsidiary that is based at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport.

Comair's computer system that manages flight assignments crashed Friday night after it was overwhelmed by cancellations and delays caused by the winter storm that socked the Ohio Valley. The computer shutdown forced the airline to cancel all of its Saturday flights.



Luggage is piled up in the US Airways terminal at Philadelphia International Airport in Philadelphia on Friday.

Miller said he did not know how many flights there would be Sunday or the destinations.

He said technicians were continuing to repair the computer system.

"Obviously, we're working to get as much of the schedule back up and running in the subsequent days so we can hopefully resume our full schedule no later than the end of the week, sooner if possible," Miller said.

US Airways, meanwhile, had passengers and thousands of pieces of luggage stranded at Philadelphia International Airport — for the third day in a row.

Bleary-eyed John Price watched Saturday as airport workers sorted piles of unclaimed bags — none of them the suitcase full of presents for relatives he had

checked on his Phoenix-to-Philadelphia flight Friday.

"I can't show up empty-handed. That just doesn't cut it," he said.

The airline blamed the canceled flights — including 143 on Saturday — and baggage backups on severe weather Thursday compounded by record numbers of employees calling in sick, according to a company statement.

Systemwide, the airline canceled 80 flights Saturday and 176 flights Friday, airline spokeswoman Amy Kudwa said.

Spokespeople for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, which represents US Airways baggage handlers, and the Association of Flight Attendants said they had not organized any job actions.

"There is no union action. It's poor management planning, that's my opinion. ... We have sick calls every single year around the holiday," said Teddy Xidas, president of Association of Flight Attendants Local 40 in Pittsburgh.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta has directed senior officials to talk with US Airways management about problems at the airport. Transportation Department spokesman Robert Johnson said Saturday.

Philadelphia is a US Airways hub, but the baggage backups extended to other East Coast airports.

In Virginia, hundreds of unclaimed bags from US Airways flights were piled at Richmond International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

Shirley Malave flew from Philadelphia to Florida on Saturday to be with relatives, but when she arrived in Tampa she discovered her luggage wasn't on the US Airways plane with her. She waited for two more flights from Philadelphia, but her luggage was not there.

"They ruined everybody's Christmas," said Malave, who lives near Tom's River, N.J.

She was offered a \$50 stipend to buy clothes, but on Christmas Day, "good luck trying to find something to open," she said. "I have no clothes. Nothing."

Extra flights carrying nothing but luggage were scheduled to fly from Philadelphia to the airline's bag processing facility in Charlotte, N.C., where workers could help process bags more quickly, Kudwa said.

In Tampa and Miami, baggage delays on Delta flights also were reported. The airline did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Struggling US Airways, bankrupt for the second time in two years, says it needs to drastically cut labor costs if it is to survive beyond mid-January, when its interim financing arrangement with the federal government's Air Transportation Stabilization Board is set to expire.

## Frigid temperatures make for a chilly Christmas

Travel is heavy despite record snowfall and slick highways

BY NATASHA GURAL

The Associated Press

Mother Nature delivered a bone-chilling Christmas to much of the nation Saturday, but holiday travelers made it out in droves despite record snow that shut down highways two days earlier in the central states.

South Texas awoke to a rare blanket of snow, when up to 13 inches shattered records for the region. The deep freeze brought Victoria, Texas, its first white Christmas in 86 years and snarled holiday plans for thousands of travelers.

"It's totally snowed over," Tawnya Evans, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Corpus Christi, said Saturday.

"It's unusual to see that here. ... A bunch of people are excited because it's a white Christmas."

The snow was expected to melt as temperatures warmed into the

30s and 40s throughout Christmas Day, but Evans said some of it could refreeze overnight.

Conditions on Indiana highways were improving Saturday, two days after a winter storm dumped up to two feet of snow in some areas, followed by subzero temperatures.

Indiana State Police said Interstate 65 near Seymour was still slick in spots on Saturday, but traffic was moving. They said almost all highways in southern Indiana were still covered by snow or ice.

The wintry mix caused hours-long delays on I-65 about midway between Indianapolis and Louisville, Ky., on Friday, when several semitrailers were jackknifed or stuck.

Authorities reported a portion of Interstate 64 from the Illinois state line to Evansville in southwestern Indiana Friday, a day after more than 100 stranded trav-

elers were rescued from their snowbound vehicles, which hampered snow and salt trucks from clearing the highway, police said.

In Ohio, about 175,000 homes and businesses remained without power — down from 327,000 on Thursday. Some customers might not have electricity restored until Monday, American Electric Power officials said.

A few small churches in rural areas of south-central Indiana canceled Christmas services, while even more called off Christmas Eve services to keep parishioners off the treacherous roadways.

Started New Orleans residents saw snow falling steadily — the first Christmas snow in 50 years and the first time in 15 years the city recorded any snowfall at all.

Freezing rain, sleet and low temperatures forced Louisiana state police to shut down interstates and state highways on Saturday.

## Ice and snow hit Carolinas

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Freezing rain and snow coated parts of the Carolinas on Sunday, knocking out power to thousands of customers and making highways slippery for after-Christmas shoppers.

A layer of ice one-quarter to one-half of an inch thick weighed down branches and power lines in South Carolina's Midlands and Pee Dee regions.

Progress Energy spokeswoman Julie Hans said 18,000 homes and businesses had no electricity in Florence and Hartsville, and South Carolina Electric and Gas said 7,100 of its customers were blacked out, mostly in the southeast area of Columbia.

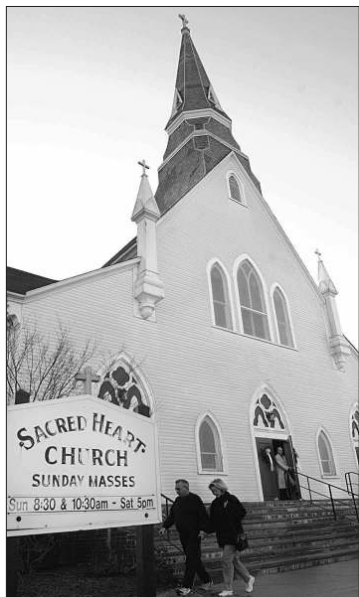
Up to four inches of snow had fallen by late morning in North Carolina's eastern Piedmont and northern Coastal Plain.

The North Carolina Highway Patrol troop covering 14 central counties received reports of 180 accidents between midnight and about 10 a.m., more than five times the normal total for a regular Sunday, said patrol spokeswoman Patty McQuillan.

However, the cold and slippery roads didn't keep malls from opening in the Raleigh, N.C., area for shoppers looking for after-holiday bargains.

"We have the die-hard shoppers that are hitting the after-Christmas sales," said Pam Shaffer with Triangle Towne Center in North Raleigh. "It looks like they have a lot of bags in their hands."

# Vigil to save church ends in arrests



Churchgoers leave Christmas Day Mass at the Sacred Heart Church in Natick, Mass., where on Christmas Eve two parishioners attempting to start a vigil at the church were arrested and charged with trespassing. The pair were protesting against the scheduled closing of the church.

## Man, woman jailed over closing of 114-year-old Massachusetts parish

BY BOB SALSBERG

The Associated Press

NATICK, Mass. — Police arrested two parishioners who attempted a vigil to keep the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston from closing their 114-year-old parish, one of 83 churches slated to be shut down or consolidated by year's end.

Anne Green said she and Leo Ryan were handcuffed Christmas Eve at Sacred Heart Church, placed in the back of a cruiser and driven to Natick police headquarters, where they were booked on trespassing charges and briefly jailed.

"They were released early Christmas morning with orders not to venture within 100 yards of the church, keeping them away from Christmas Mass on Saturday — a day before Sacred Heart is scheduled to shut down."

"This is not the way Catholics usually conduct their business. I never thought it would come to this," Green, 54, said Saturday.

She and several other parishioners had stayed in the church after the 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. Late in the evening, two police officers told them to leave church or be arrested, and Green and Ryan declined.

Parishioners at eight other churches were continuing around-the-clock vigils to stave off the closures, which Archbishop Sean O'Malley announced last

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spring as part of a reorganization plan. The move was in response to declining attendance, a shortage of priests and financial pressure caused in part by the clergy sex abuse crisis.

Friday's incident in Natick is just the second time a church official has had a parishioner arrested amid the tension over church closures.

*"This is not the way Catholics usually conduct their business. I never thought it would come to this."*

Anne Green

said.

"We were hoping it would be peaceful," said parishioner Pat Hegarty. "I have resigned myself to the fact that this church is closing. There is not enough people here who want to fight."

Of the parishioners who were arrested, Hegarty said, "God love them for trying."

O'Malley declined to answer questions as he left St. Francis House, a Boston homeless shelter, after helping serve Christmas dinner to residents.

## Immigrant bill may be tough fight for Bush

BY TOM RAUM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush faces a major rebellion with his own party if he follows through on a promise to push legislation that would offer millions of illegal immigrants a path to U.S. citizenship.

Almost no issue divides Republicans as deeply.

To get the guest-worker initiative through Congress, Bush will need to go against the wishes of many Republicans and forge bipartisan alliances. That's what President Clinton did in 1993 to win approval for a free trade agreement with Mexico and Canada, over the objections of a large bloc of congressional Democrats.

The chance seems slim for finding common ground between those in favor of liberalized immigration laws — Bush, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, for example — and those who want fewer immigrants, tougher border controls and harsher penalties.

Opposition is strongest among House Republicans.

"In our party, this is a deep division that is growing deeper every minute," says Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo. He heads a group of 70 lawmakers who are against easing immigration laws.

Tancredo said Bush's guest-worker proposal is "a pig with lipstick" and will not pass.

Bush asserts that he won valuable "political capital" in the election and intends to spend it. It is not clear how much of that he is willing to spend on the immigration measure.

Higher on his list of priorities is overhauling the Social Security system, rewriting the tax laws, limiting lawsuit judgments and making his first-term tax cuts permanent.

An estimated 10 million immigrants live in the United States illegally; the vast majority are from Mexico, with an additional million arriving every year.

A hint of the trouble ahead for Bush on immigration came this month when proposals to tighten — not ease — border restrictions nearly undermined a bill to restructure U.S. intelligence agencies.

The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee wanted the measure to bar states from giving a driver's license to illegal immigrants.

The president's plan would grant temporary-worker status, for three years to six years, to millions of undocumented workers. It also would let easier for those workers to get permanent U.S. citizenship.

Republican consultants suggest Bush will not make a big push for his immigration bill until he has achieved his goals on Social Security and the tax laws. They also say the president may section for his immigration bill if it would jeopardize other parts of his agenda.

## Re-enactors kept from Delaware River again

BY JEFFREY GOLD

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON CROSSING, N.J. — Thousands of spectators along the Delaware River were disappointed Saturday when high, fast-flowing waters forced the re-enactment of Gen. George Washington's historic crossing to be canceled for the third straight year.

The rush of water, caused by recent heavy rains, was too much for re-enactors to replicate the 1776 feat by Washington and his Continental troops that set the stage for key Revolutionary War victories.

Spectators lining the riverbanks in Pennsylvania and New Jersey still got a show as several dozen re-enactors, dressed in period uniforms and clothing, marched with weapons and drums.

"I don't want them to compromise their safety, but I did want to see Washington cross the Delaware," said spectator Paul Schindler.

Although Saturday was sunny, the river was running at 13 mph, about three times faster than normal, and was several feet higher than normal, said officials at Washington Crossing Historic Park in Pennsylvania.

Bad weather also forced re-enactments to be postponed in 2002 and 2003, but river conditions in 1776 were even rougher.

Washington and his poorly equipped troops made crossed the river in the dark, in driving sleet and with ice on the river. The army went on to key victories in Trenton and Princeton, reversing the declining fortunes of the Continental Army.



James Gibson, right, portrays Gen. George Washington in a ceremony Saturday in Washington Crossing, Pa., marking the 228th anniversary of the historic Delaware River crossing.



Dear US Armed Forces,

My thanks go to each of you for your service and sacrifice on our behalf.

As a former squad, I know the agony of deployment and I understand the hassles of overseas communication with loved ones.

My company has technology that might be of use to you. We provide voicemail email services to businesses back home. Since many of you are being extended in theater, I have an offer for you.

To show our support for your service, we are offering a donation of our voicemail-to-email service. Your family & friends can leave voice messages which you retrieve via email and listen to from a computer. This donation is free for two months, after which you are under NO OBLIGATION to extend.

We are also aggressively seeking sponsors who will commit to providing this service to you for an additional 12 months. We have signed up several sponsors and we are now looking for service members to provide this service too.

I urge you to take advantage of this and start hearing from those of us who truly support the way you are doing. Wouldn't it be great to hear your loved ones' voice today?

With all respect,  
Rick Stevens

www.absolutevoice.com  
Open to ALL who are serving our country overseas!





## OPINION

## Why not hold Rumsfeld to same standard?

When I heard President Bush praising Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld last week, my mind strayed to the story of two Army reservists who've served months in the brig.

Trudy Rubin

Maj. Cathy Kaus and Chief Warrant Officer Darrell Birt arrived in Kuwait in March 2003, but their unit didn't get enough trucks to carry crucial equipment into Iraq. So the two officers commandeered some abandoned Army trucks by the roadside, loaded up and headed for Tikrit.

Their reward? A court-martial for theft, and dishonorable discharges.

"The soldiers were held accountable for their actions," an Army spokesman said. In other words, Kaus and Birt were punished for breaking the rules so their troops could carry out their mission.

But no one holds Rumsfeld accountable for undermining the mission and undercutting the troops.

The recent flap over unarmored Humvees — and Rumsfeld's flip remarks to a reservist who complained about having to scavenge for armor — are part of a bigger pattern.

There's a reason why 50,000 reservists were sent to war in 2003 with outdated body armor, and why families had to raise funds to send their loved ones Kevlar vests with ceramic plates. There's a reason so many Humvees and trucks are still unarmored.

There's a reason Kaus and Birt had to im-

provise to sustain their mission: Rumsfeld refused to recognize the nature of the situation into which he sent those troops.

Rumsfeld was so eager to test out his new, lean military machine that he didn't want to plan for the likelihood of instability after Saddam Hussein fell. The State Department, the CIA and many military commanders urged that more forces be available to establish order after the war. No way, said Rumsfeld.

According to the Pentagon, the aftermath of the war was supposed to be easy. No military police were sent in to post war law enforcement, which encouraged the rise of the insurgents. Pentagon officials talked about drawing down to 50,000 U.S. troops by fall of 2003.

No wonder no one paid attention to the reservists. They weren't supposed to be on the front lines. The Pentagon never contemplated the prospect of an insurgency, in which the front lines are everywhere.

Even as the insurgency took root — in the fall of 2003 — Rumsfeld refused to admit the situation was urgent. As late as this month, he tried to blame the shortage of armored humvees on lack of production capacity.

Yet the manufacturers of Humvees and armored planes for the U.S. military say they aren't running near capacity. They say the Pentagon just hadn't asked them to produce more.

Rumsfeld's fierce resistance to admitting to problems has cost U.S. troops dearly. ...

The exit date of U.S. troops depends, as President Bush admits, on when Iraqi armed forces are capable of securing their country. Rumsfeld's mismanagement ensures that date won't come any time soon.

In March, the secretary claimed that Iraq had 200,000 security forces "taking over re-



sponsibility for the country." This puffed-up figure was meaningless; most were untrained police or security guards, not forces trained to fight insurgents. ...

President Bush admitted last week that the results of U.S. training efforts were "mixed, in terms of standing up Iraqi units who are willing to fight."

Why such poor results? Again, responsibility lies with Rumsfeld.

For nearly a year after Baghdad's fall, the Pentagon preferred to pursue its political vision of a new kind of Arab country without

an army rather than equip Iraqis to fight their own bad guys.

Rumsfeld chose to disband the Iraqi army, instead of vetting and retraining some units. He nixed Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's plan to bring back five Iraqi army divisions. ...

Iraq's security forces and our own have been bitterly served by these lapses. Isn't it time that someone on high — rather than loyal reservists — is held responsible for the Pentagon's mistakes?

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

## Military transformation among secretary's successes

BY NEWT GINGRICH

The recent calls for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to step down have provided a good opportunity to step back and review his record from the last four years.

Shortly after Mr. Rumsfeld began what would be his second tour of duty as secretary of defense, he made it clear that he would do what it takes to begin transforming the military and its supporting bureaucracies into a force capable of meeting the threats of the 21st century.

In his 2001 Senate confirmation hearing, Mr. Rumsfeld testified, "The old difference of the Cold War era is imperfect for dissuading the threats of the 21st century and for maintaining stability our new security environment."

In the face of enormous internal opposition, Mr. Rumsfeld, who under President Ford directed a military that stood ready to face the might of the Warsaw Pact, began in the summer of 2001 to transform the defense bureaucracy by forcing it to recognize that the Cold War was over. He then began implementing the necessary changes.

Most notably, he undertook an extraordinarily complicated set of negotiations with our allies to move forces from obsolete and expensive Cold War positions in Europe and East Asia to much more useful and less expensive positions from where they can be more effective in defending America.

Just weeks after Mr. Rumsfeld's Defense Department transformation plan had begun, the United States was attacked on Sept. 11.

By now the response to that attack is well

known. Mr. Rumsfeld took control and led the remarkably successful campaign in Afghanistan, which led in short order to the defeat of the Taliban and the destruction of its terrorist training camps.

Even during ongoing military campaigns, Mr. Rumsfeld never wavered from his objectives. In the summer of 2003, in order to accelerate transformation in the Army, he brought Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker out of retirement to become Army chief of staff. [They were] able to move personnel from noncombat to combat units, enabling them with additional reorganization to create 15 newly restructured combat brigades.

Also, because of Mr. Rumsfeld's plan, our military is more flexible, more agile and better able to fight unconventional enemies. ...

Moreover, he was able to move military personnel out of jobs that should be and are now held by civilians. Under this reorganization, Army troop levels increased (by

30,000), as did the number of combat brigades, making a draft unnecessary despite some critics' claims that one was imminent.

At the same time, Mr. Rumsfeld directed the global war on terrorism through the Special Operations Command. The effort has helped other countries hunt down, capture or kill terrorists in dozens of countries. The combined effort has resulted in three-fourths of al-Qaida's senior leadership being killed or captured, while the organization's mastermind, Osama bin Laden, remains a powerless international fugitive.

Finally, there is Iraq. The military performed brilliantly in the 23-day campaign led by Gen. Tommy Franks that defeated the dangerous Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein.

Today, Mr. Rumsfeld is working closely with the ambassador to Iraq, John D. Negroponte, to help create an interim government, build up the Iraqi military and help Iraqis regain control over their own country.

Yet Mr. Rumsfeld is a target for those who either oppose American military involvement in Iraq or lack the ability to understand or communicate the difficulty and importance of defeating the insurgency and creating a stable elected government.

Mr. Rumsfeld, standing on his remarkable record of achievement, is far too effective a defense secretary for any serious student of recent American history to think that he should be replaced. With Mr. Rumsfeld at the helm, the U.S. military has defeated two terrorist regimes, freeing more than 50 million people a chance at freedom. ...

[T]he most compelling reason to keep Mr. Rumsfeld as secretary of defense may simply be that there has not been another attack on our homeland since Sept. 11.

Mr. Rumsfeld's critics are off the mark. The military, under Mr. Rumsfeld's leadership, is our finest example of what works.

Newt Gingrich, a Georgia Republican, was speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 1999. This column first appeared in The (Baltimore) Sun.

Gingrich

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



The Democrats:  
"I RESOLVE  
TO GET TO KNOW  
FOLKS IN THAT  
'HEARTLAND' PLACE...  
THAT'S ALL I  
NEED TO DO,  
AND I'LL GO FAR..."



...OVER  
DOUBLE LATTES,  
AT A  
SUSHI BAR..."

# College Republicans' fund raising under fire

THOMAS B. EDSALL

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The College Republican National Committee is under fire for using front organizations to collect millions of dollars in contributions, including money from elderly people with dementia.

During the 2004 campaign, the group sent out direct mail solicitations under names such as "Republican Headquarters 2004" and "Republican Election Committee."

One four-page letter asked prospects to send \$1,000 together with an American flag pin for Presi-

dent Bush to wear to "Republican Headquarters" to ensure that Bush knows "there are millions who are giving him the shield of God to protect him in the difficult days ahead."

In small print at the bottom of one page, the letter notes: "A project of and paid for by College Republican National Committee."

Many donors complained that they thought the money was going directly to the Republican Party, and not to the college group, which no longer is affiliated with the GOP. The controversy over the letters has produced angry responses from leaders of

state College Republican chapters, including those in Washington state, North Carolina and New York.

The University of Washington College Republicans approved a resolution calling on Eric Hoplin, chairman of the national committee, "to take full responsibility for his actions," acknowledge that those actions have substantially harmed the College Republicans grass-roots organization and "promptly resign."

Dan Centinello, New York College Republicans chairman, complained that the national leaders had not taken prompt and decisive action to correct the situa-

tion. "I don't want to see hard work of all of us be tarnished by a fundraising scandal," he said.

Internal disputes over fundraising tactics have been brewing among the College Republicans groups for at least three years, but they surfaced in late October, after publication of damaging news reports in the Seattle Times and the Durham Herald-Sun.

The Times reported that a number of elderly donors gave far more money than they could afford.

In the immediate aftermath, Hoplin e-mailed top state officials of the organization telling them not to speak to the news media.

"We need the story to go away," he wrote. "The story is full of lies and distortions written by a well-known liberal who is out to get us. If the press asks you about it, tell them you have no comment."

Hoplin declined to be interviewed for this report.

He told the Minneapolis Star Tribune, "We've come to discover that there are a few donors who have been confused, as few donors who have some form of dementia, who aren't entirely sure of the amount of money that they're giving — and how often they're giving." He said that any donors who believe they were misled will have their money refunded.

## NASA eyes parachutes to prevent jet crashes

BY TED BRIDIS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rancher Albert Kolk's small plane banked uncontrollably in darkness over Canada's Monashee Mountains, then began spiraling downward earth. "Seat belts!" he barked to his teenage grandson and two young friends. Then he reached for a red lever in the cockpit.

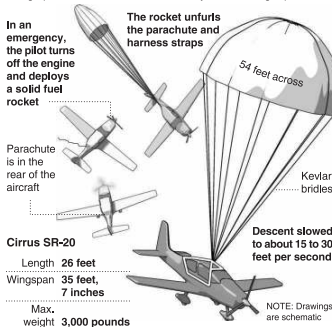
Suddenly, an orange-and-white parachute as big as a house opened above the plane and gently landed his stricken aircraft in a rocky clearing.

If the maker of the parachute that saved Kolk's life this past spring succeeds, one day commercial aircraft like regional commuter jets may have similar safety systems. First, though, there's the challenge of creating a parachute robust enough to rescue bigger, faster planes.

"Weight and speed are always the challenge," acknowledged

## Just a plane parachute

Ballistic Recovery Systems manufactures parachutes for small planes such as the Cirrus SR-20, and is working with NASA to design parachutes that could eventually work on larger planes.



Source: Ballistic Recovery Systems Inc.; Cirrus Design Corp.

Robert Nelson, chairman of Ballistic Recovery Systems Inc., which sold about 500 of its \$16,000 parachute systems this year for use by small private planes and pilots like Kolk.

The company's most advanced parachute right now can accommodate nearly 4,000 pounds. While small planes can weigh up to 2,000 pounds and cruise about 175 miles per hour, regional jets weigh 80,000 pounds and fly at more than 600 miles per hour.

That's why Ballistic Recovery Systems is working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration — which gave it \$670,000 for research — to design a new generation of emergency parachutes that would work on small jets and could be steered by pilots as they drift to the ground.

Kolk, who was piloting his private plane April 8 from Seattle to his ranch in British Columbia, remembered reaching for the parachute handle as his plane slipped into a dangerous flat spin over the mountains in British Columbia, "like how a dog chases its tail." Kolk's experience is one of four cases where parachute-equipped planes landed safely beneath a

canopy since U.S. regulators approved the system six years ago. Ballistic Recovery Systems, based in St. Paul, Minn., says eight lives were saved in those four incidents, plus dozens of other people in accidents involving smaller parachute-equipped ultralight planes that resemble motorized gliders.

The parachute, stored behind the rear seats in small planes, is fired with a rocket through the rear windshield; it's attached with high-strength lines to the plane's wings, nose and tail.

They are increasingly popular among private pilots, and for good reason: The government said 626 people died in general aviation crashes in 2003, compared with 81 people aboard commercial airlines.

Aviation experts question whether parachutes will ever be attached to the largest passenger jets, such as the Boeing 747, which weighs more than 900,000 pounds. "The speed and weight of those planes would seem to preclude a system like that," said James Hall, former chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

## Ancient village's remains halt bridge construction

TOMAS ALEX TIZON

Los Angeles Times

SEATTLE — If it had been just one skeleton, the project would have continued. Even a few dozen skeletons might not have been enough to persuade Washington state officials to abandon a \$283-million bridge-repair project along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, about 65 miles northwest of here.

But what construction workers stumbled upon went beyond anything ever found in the Pacific Northwest: an ancient Indian village dating back 17 centuries, with lodges, dance halls and cemeteries containing hundreds of skeletal remains. So far, nearly 300 complete skeletons have been unearthed.

Many of them buried in clusters, including entire extended families.

Men and women lay in ritual embrace. Infants were buried with mothers, the young and the old lay side by side, as many as 11 in one grouping.

"This is just the tip. There could be thousands of people buried there," said David Rice, a senior archaeologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Seattle, who characterized the site as potentially the largest prehistoric village and burial grounds ever found in the United States.

Rice said parts of the village, which has been identified as the ancient settlement of Tse-whit-zen, were at least 1,700 years old.

The skeletons are believed to be ancestors of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, who still live near the site, just outside Port Angeles. The leaders of the 900-member tribe asked the state to halt the construction project. In a letter to transportation officials, tribal Chairwoman Frances Charis explained that the daily excavations were just "overwhelming everything."

Last week, 15 months and \$58 million into the project, the state complied. The heavy machines rumbled to a halt. Construction workers began packing up the rest of the site, as on hold.

"Money is money, and we regret we couldn't have made the decision earlier so we could have saved some," said Doug MacDonald, state secretary of transportation. "But what has been discovered has an importance that can't value. We started out fixing one kind of bridge, but we ended up finding a bridge into the past."

Tribal members, who have been helping archaeologists and construction workers, now must figure out what to do with the unearthed remains. Each complete skeleton has been blessed and placed in a cedar coffin. The coffins are being kept in an undisclosed location. In addition, workers have found 800 other bones and bone fragments and more than 5,000 artifacts.

The state has given \$3 million to the tribe to acquire land and rebury the remains. Some tribal leaders have said they want to return them all to Tse-whit-zen.

The state and tribe have agreed to stop further scientific excavation. Archaeologists say the true size and scope of the village and burial grounds might never be known. "This has been wrenching for us," said Dennis Sullivan, vice chairman of the Lower Elwha Klallam.



An emergency parachute system is deployed on a small private plane. The parachutes, used to save aircraft in distress, are increasingly popular among private pilots.

## IN THE WORLD

## Massive quake kills thousands in Asia

# 8.9 magnitude is biggest in years; tsunamis crush several nations

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — The world's most powerful earthquake in 40 years struck deep under the Indian Ocean off the west coast of Sumatra on Sunday, triggering tidal waves up to 20 feet high that obliterated villages and seaside resorts in six countries across southern and southeast Asia. At least 8,000 people were killed in the devastation.

Tourists, fishermen, homes and cars were swept away by walls of water that rolled across the Bay of Bengal, unleashed by the 8.9-magnitude earthquake. The tsunami waves barreled nearly 3,000 miles across the ocean to Africa, where at least nine people were killed in Somalia.

In Sri Lanka, 1,000 miles west of the epicenter, more than 3,000 people were killed, the country's top police official said; that number, however, does not include the 1,500 deaths reported by rebels who control part of the country.

Nearly 2,500 were reported dead in Indonesia, and about 2,300 along the southern coasts of India. At least 289 were confirmed dead in Thailand, 42 in Malaysia and 2 in Bangladesh.

But officials expected the death toll to continue to rise, with hundreds reported missing and all communications cut off to towns in the Indonesian island of Sumatra that were closest to the epicenter. Hundreds of bodies were found on various beaches along India's southern state of Tamil Nadu, and more were expected to be washed in by the sea, officials said.



Residents carry a body of a victim Sunday after tidal waves hit following an earthquake in Lhokseumawe, Aceh province, Indonesia. The quake registered 8.9 on the Richter scale, and thousands are dead.

## No tsunami warning

India and Sri Lanka, two countries with high casualties from the earthquake-generated tidal waves Sunday, are not among the 26 countries that make up the International Coordinating Group for the Tsunami Warning System.

The rush of tsunami waves brought sudden disaster to people carrying out their daily activities on the ocean's edge. Sunbathers on the beaches of the Thai resort of Phuket were washed away. A group of 32 Indians — including 15 children — were killed while taking a ritual Hindu bath to mark the full moon day. Fishing boats, with their owners clinging to their sides, were picked up by the waves and discarded.

"All the planet is vibrating" from the quake, said Enzo Boschi, the head of Italy's National Geophysics Institute. Speaking on SKY TG24 TV, Boschi said the quake even disturbed the Earth's rotation.

The U.S. Geological Survey measured the quake at a magnitude of 8.9. Geophysicist Julie Martinez said it was the world's fifth-largest since 1900 and the largest since a 9.2 temblor hit Prince William

The system predicts where tsunamis will strike up to 14 hours in advance. The system relies on a network of earthquake seismic sensors and tidal gauges attached to buoys in the oceans. However, the network's western edge stops near Thailand and doesn't extend into the Indian Ocean.

From The Associated Press

Sound Alaska in 1964.

The epicenter was located 155 miles south-southeast of Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh province on Sumatra, and six miles under the seabed of the Indian Ocean. There were at least a half-dozen powerful aftershocks, ranging in magnitude from about 6 and 7.3. On Sumatra, the quake destroyed dozens of buildings — but as elsewhere, it was the wall of water that followed that caused

## 8.9 quake rocks northern Indonesia



SOURCES: ESI, USGS AP

## More world stories on Page 19

the most deaths and devastation. Tidal waves leveled towns in Aceh province on Sumatra's northern tip. An Associated Press reporter saw bodies wedged in trees as the waters receded. More bodies littered the beaches.

The worst known death toll so far was in Sri Lanka, where a million people were displaced from wrecked villages. Some 20,000 soldiers were deployed to relief and rescue and to help police maintain law and order. Police chief, Chandana Fernando said at least 3,000 people were dead in areas under government control.

"It is a huge tragedy," said Lalith Weerathunga, secretary to the Sri Lanka prime minister. "The death toll is going up all the time." He said the government did not know what was happening in areas of the northeast controlled by Tamil Tiger rebels.

## Earthquakes' deadly toll

Earthquakes are one of the most deadly natural disasters and can claim lives by the thousands. The earthquake that hit Sunday has killed at least 7,000.

Deadly earthquakes, since 1902

DATE	LOCATION	DEATHS
1976	China	255,000
1920	China	200,000
1927	China	200,000
1923	Japan	143,000
1948	Turkmenistan	110,000
1908	Italy	70,000*
1932	China	70,000
1970	Peru	66,000
1990	Iran	40,000*
1935	Pakistan	30,000*

\* at least

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

## Multiple countries dispatch aid teams in quake's aftermath

BY FRANCES D'EMILIO

The Associated Press

ROME — Private and government aid teams were flying Sunday from several European capitals to southern Asian countries swamped by waves after the region was rocked by the world's most powerful quake in 40 years. Pope John Paul II lent his moral voice to calls for the international community to help.

The International Red Cross in Geneva issued an initial appeal for donations of \$6.7 million in cash, relief goods or services for the next six months.

The 8.9-magnitude quake off the Indonesian island of Sumatra triggered devastating tidal wave flooding. "Thousands have already died because of the flooding, but unless there is a rapid response to the emergency, many more people could die in the coming days," said Jasmine Whitbread, international director of the aid group Oxfam. "The flood waters will have contaminated drinking water and food will be scarce."

Said David Alexander, international director of the British Red Cross: "We are in for a big emergency disaster response, and we will be at it for many months to come."

President Bush expressed his "sincere condolences" Sunday to the victims of the massive earthquake and tidal waves that hit southern and southeast Asia.

"The United States stands ready to offer all appropriate assistance to those nations most affected," the president said in a statement issued aboard Air Force One.

Hours after Europe woke up to the news of thousands of deaths and wide areas of evacuated villages in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Maldives and elsewhere, the pope coupled his prayers for the victims "of this enormous tragedy" with an appeal to the international community to quickly act.

In Britain, Save the Children said a team was flying out Sunday night to help workers already in Sri Lanka, and World Vision, another aid group, said its staff in the region was delivering aid to those in need. In Sri Lanka, World Vision said, two workers were putting up 100 people in their homes.

The Italian Foreign Ministry's crisis unit was coordinating EU aid efforts, and Italy, Sweden, Germany and Britain were among the first to send teams of technical experts.

"We are doing all we can to offer practical help and support," said Britain's International Development Secretary Hilary Benn.

The German government released emergency aid funding.

In Austria, relief officials and charities such as Caritas and Volkshilfe issued urgent appeals for cash donations.

The Dutch Red Cross was flying in blankets, tents and medicine, with priority going to Sri Lanka, said Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman Esther van Damme.

In Brussels, EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Luis Michel said it was important to bring aid "in those vital hours and days immediately after the disaster." The 25-nation EU will deliver million \$4 million in emergency aid as a start.

The Greek Foreign Ministry said a C-130 cargo plane was ready to offer assistance, and the Kuwaiti government said it was sending \$1 million in aid.

## Flu shots available

**MA** BOSTON — State health officials are making flu vaccine shots available to people 50 and older. The state imposed restrictions in October after British regulators unexpectedly shut down a major U.S. vaccine supplier over concerns about bacterial contamination. In early December, with supplies increasing, the Department of Public Health lowered the minimum age to 65 and eased some other restrictions.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Dude, we want Dell Inc.

**NC** WINSTON-SALEM — The city and surrounding Forsyth County proposed giving a combined \$37.2 million to Dell Inc. if it builds a computer plant there. Dell could hire more than 2,000 workers for its new Triad plant. Guilford and Davidson counties have offered lower incentive deals. Dell announced last month it would move to the region after the Legislature agreed to incentives totaling \$242.5 million.

### Hazards of watching TV

**TX** HOUSTON — A car plowed into an apartment and ran over a man who was lying in bed watching television, but the man suffered only minor injuries.

Wilmon Guillory, 56, was trapped under the car for 40 minutes. He was treated and released from Memorial Hermann Hospital, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Firefighters said three young people were in the car that plunged through a brick wall of Guillory's apartment and into his bedroom. All three fled.

### Home's nurse attacked

**CA** PERRIS — An 87-year-old man visiting a family member at a convalescent home allegedly shot a nurse in the face after he became angry about the care the relative was receiving, authorities said.

The nurse was listed in critical condition at a nearby hospital, Riverside County sheriff's spokesman Dennis Gutierrez said.

Minutes after the afternoon shooting at the Ember Care Health Center in Perris, authorities arrested Norman Larson of Sun City for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon, Gutierrez said.

Center employees had detained Larson by the time deputies arrived.

### Baby suit thrown out

**SC** COLUMBIA — The state Supreme Court threw out a "wrongful life" lawsuit claiming a doctor failed to tell a pregnant woman about her son's severe birth defect.

Jennie Willis contended she would have legally aborted had she known when she was pregnant that most of her son's brain was missing, according to her lawyer, G. Farrell Furr Jr. The lawsuit was filed by Willis on behalf of her now 8-year-old son, Thomas.

In a unanimous ruling, South Carolina's high court said it recognizes the severe nature of the boy's

condition, but it could not accept the wrongful birth claim.

South Carolina joins 27 other states that either reject or limit the "wrongful life" claim, the court said. California, Washington and New Jersey are the only other states that allow such claims.

### YMCA rentals banned

**IL** CHICAGO — A YMCA director has been fired and overnight facility rentals banned after the parents of young children arriving for a morning swim meet clashed with participants in an overnight transgender fashion show and ball.

Greg Weider, who had been acting director of the New City YMCA for two years, was fired. Programming manager Michael Horton, who oversaw scheduling at the center, resigned two days earlier.

Police and private security guards were called after some parents used sexual slurs, and scuffling broke out, authorities said. No arrests were made.

### Cyclists defend rights

**NY** NEW YORK — The city's bid to force cyclists to obtain permits before their monthly bicycle rally through Manhattan was dismissed by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge William H. Pauley III said the issue should be

resolved in state court.

Cyclists had argued that since no one claims to organize the Critical Mass rallies, issuing permits would have been difficult.

City lawyer Sheryl Neufeld said the city was considering an appeal.

The bike rides, which started in San Francisco in 1992 to make a statement about cyclists' rights, have become large enough in New York that police tightened the rules, leading to the arrest of hundreds of cyclists days before the Republican National Convention.

Pauley noted that police had not required permits for nearly a decade and had even aided the rallies by blocking cross-town intersections and letting cyclists run red lights.

Attorney Norman Seagal, who represented five cyclists who had their bikes seized, said he hoped the judge's argument "will deter the city from seeking to appeal."

### Saving trees

**NE** HASTINGS — When Earl Marian sends birthday wishes to his brother, he can count on getting the same exact birthday wishes from Floyd Marian the next month.

It's a card-swapping tradition that started in 1975, when Floyd first received the birthday card from his brother.

In it, Linus of the Peanuts comic strip tells the reader, "This is the age of ecology! Don't throw this card away. Recycle it to a friend." Floyd took the advice and sent it back to Earl. Earl followed suit the following year. And so on and so on.

For 29 years the brothers have kept their same-card exchange going, freshening the card up with one-line messages that now have taken up most of the card's open space.

Floyd, 80, receives the card each year around his Dec. 10 birthday, then kicks it back to Earl, 73, in time to acknowledge his birthday on Jan. 31.

"It's getting worn out a little bit," Floyd said.

### Drivers' licenses revoked

**VA** RICHMOND — A total of 237 drivers are losing their Virginia licenses because of suspected fraud by a former Department of Motor Vehicles worker who allegedly sold driver's licenses for up to \$2,500 each.

The department will be mailing letters containing the cancellation orders to the drivers this week, with the revocations effective immediately.

All the drivers received licenses over the last 1½ years from a former DMV employee at the agency's office in north Henrico County who has been charged with illegally selling documents.

Two weeks ago, the agency sent letters to 250 drivers telling them to turn in their licenses and reapplies for them.

An unknown number of the 250 affected drivers turned in their licenses, she said, but could not meet the state's licensing requirements and walked away without a new driver's license.



**On a mission** Salva Dut shows a water pump he uses for demonstrations of his mission to bring clean water to villages in Sudan, at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church where he works as a clerk in Rochester, N.Y. Dut is one of the thousands of "Lost Boys of Sudan" who spent over a decade fleeing war and famine before landing in America.



**Soup's on** Glenn Harris, left, gets chicken soup from Kim Snyder, second right, and sandwiches from Patricia Bates, right, as members of Gods Filling Station Full Gospel Church serve meals to the needy in front of the Department of Social Services building in Asheville, N.C.



**Protesters on the prowl** Lisa Franzetta, campaign coordinator with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, left, and Melissa Garcia, a volunteer with PETA, protest as they skate around wearing painted-on leopard spots Pershing Square's downtown ice rink in Los Angeles.



### Snack time

**Pike, a 22-year-old polar bear, digs into a Christmas present at the San Francisco Zoo in San Francisco on Christmas Eve.**





**3 lucky pigs** Three hogs walk in the snow after getting out of a barn that caught fire near Stockwell, Ind. More than 500 head of hogs were in the barn. Some of the hogs were able to be saved. Fire officials would not say what the cause of the blaze was.



**Back on track** A car of the newly reopened Las Vegas Monorail pulls into the station at the MGM Grand. The brand-new system, built by Canada's Bombardier Corp., had been closed since mid-September due to safety concerns.



**Winter-sun run** Octavio Pescador runs along the beach in Santa Monica, Calif., on Christmas Eve, with temperatures near 70 degrees.



**Night lights** Shining through the pitch-black darkness of an early winter morning, Christmas lights cover this home in Shawnee, Okla.

## New low on welfare

**MD** ANNAPOLIS — Figures from the Maryland Department of Human Resources show the number of people in Maryland receiving welfare benefits last month was 66,725. That's the lowest number since December 1963. Officials say the numbers have fallen steadily since a 1996 federal law limited the duration of benefits.

## Road projects delayed

**AL** MONTGOMERY — Newspaper mistakes in advertising state highway construction projects have delayed road projects five times since late 2003 and cost the state \$202,354, state transportation officials said. State law requires the projects to be advertised once a week for three weeks before bids are opened. If not, the bid process must start over.

## \$5M in child support

**MI** LANSING — Attorney General Mike Cox said his office has collected \$5 million in back child support collections. The office collected \$5 million between July and December, the same amount it collected between April 2003 and this July, a Cox spokesman said. The number of workers dedicated to collecting back child support has been increased from 10 to 33.

## No more discount

**NJ** TRENTON — Motorists who use E-ZPass on the New Jersey Turnpike will lose their 15 percent discount for rush hour and weekend tolls beginning Jan. 1, 2006. The move is expected to generate as much as \$17 million and will allow officials to borrow more money for highway improvements without paying higher interest rates. Toll discounts during off-peak hours will remain in effect.

## Vandals taint landmark

**WV** HARPERS FERRY — Vandals marked a popular landmark that Thomas Jefferson called one of nature's "most stupendous scenes," defacing with paint a famous rock of shale known as Jefferson Rock.

The rock, offering a sweeping view of where the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers meet in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, was damaged in the evening or early morning. "It looks like the entire rock was dipped into paint," park Superintendent Donald W. Campbell said Thursday. No arrests had been made.

Jefferson hiked to the spot in 1783 and described it as "perhaps one of the most stupendous scenes in Nature" in his book "Notes on the State of Virginia," telling readers its scenic vista was "worth a voyage across the Atlantic."

Park officials have begun to remove the oil-based paint from the well-grooved slab with chemicals.

## 3 arrests in bird caper

**IL** DECATUR — Authorities charged three men in connection with the decapitation of birds at Decatur's Scovill Zoo, saying they urged a 15-year-old to break into the zoo on Halloween

and helped cover up the crime. Police released documents that described it as a theft attempt gone awry. They said the teenager, arrested last month, had been urged by the three to steal chickens from the zoo on Oct. 31.

The following day, zoo workers found two Chilean flamingoes and a white pelican mangled in their cages.

Chief Park Ranger Ward Davis said authorities believe the teen went after the birds after being unable to find any chickens. In court documents, authorities said the 15-year-old strangled and decapitated the flamingoes and stomped on the pelican before decapitating it. The case against the teen is pending.

Sean M. Riley, 26, Lloyd G. Pringle, 19, and Brandon Gossard, 19, were arrested in connection with the bird deaths. Park officials say the community has raised more than \$14,000 to replace the birds.

## Pink slips at meatpacker

**KS** WICHITA — A Kansas meatpacker, hit by the loss of lucrative export markets because of fears of mad cow disease in American beef, is cutting 150 jobs and reducing production at its slaughterhouse.

Creekestone Farms Premium Beef blamed its inability to do the kind of testing for mad cow, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), that would appease overseas customers.

"What we predicted has happened — that is, we are not able to ship because we are not testing. We are not doing what the customer wants. We continue to think that is wrong," said Bill Fielding, Creekestone's chief operating officer.

One year ago, the nation's first case of mad cow was discovered in a single animal in Washington state. Many nations, including Japan — with sales exceeding \$1 billion in 2003 — then closed their borders to U.S. beef imports.

Creekestone Farms wanted to test all the cattle it slaughters for the disease. The Department of Agriculture has refused to allow such comprehensive testing.

## Traffic dispute escalates

**RI** LINCOLN — A Woonsocket man was restrained at gunpoint by a state Department of Environmental Management officer after a traffic dispute.

Stephen Chauvin, 24, was charged with felony assault with a dangerous weapon. The DEM officer spotted him walking from his parked car toward another motorist with a 2-foot-long retractable baton on Route 116 shortly after 9 a.m.

Chauvin and the other driver had both pulled over to the side of the road.

The DEM officer witnessed the confrontation and ordered Chauvin to put the baton down. When he failed to comply, the officer drew his weapon.

Chauvin then stopped and was later charged by police.

Police said Chauvin was carrying the baton because he uses it in his job as an armored-car driver, The Providence Journal reported in Thursday's editions.

Chauvin appeared in District Court and was released on personal recognizance.

His next court date is Jan. 4.

Stories and photos from news wires

## FACES

## SCARY CARREY

In his new magical movie, actor has fun putting fear into children of all ages

By MIKE SZYMANSKI

Zap2it.com

LOS ANGELES — Jim Carrey loves scaring kids. He's played the Grinch in "Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas," the Riddler in "Batman Forever," the maniacal superhero in "The Mask" — and now he's the sinister Count Olaf in "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events."

"I remember when I was a kid just loving creepy movies that scared me and at the same time were funny," says Carrey. "I remember 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' with that ... Children Catcher, who was trying to entice kids out with candy and kidnap them. There were crazy characters that were really scary. Bill Sykes in 'Oliver!' — that's not a funny movie, but I love those characters."

Now he's recreating the nemesis of three orphaned children from a series of books that rivals "Harry Potter" in popularity. In the "Lemony Snicket" series, Olaf takes custody of the children and then tries to kill them in order to inherit their parents' fortune.

Carrey says in a press conference that he modeled the character after a little bit of Orson Welles, a bit of the cartoon cereal box character Count Chocula, and bit like a bird of prey. Physically, however, he turned out a bit more familiar.

"I turned out looking like my dad, actually, which is really freaky," he says, pointing out that his family also noticed the resemblance of the older bald sharp-nosed Olaf.

"He's kind of like the funny uncle who gets a little drunk at Christmas and then turns in the middle of the night. I wanted the danger to be real."

For Carrey, playing dress-up is like Christmas every day. "I love transforming — it's like Christmas morning to me," he says, wearing an uncharacteristic black suit with a blue striped shirt. (He says he's going somewhere important

after the interview.) "You get into the make-up trailer and you start playing around with things and throwing pieces together. At one point, we had a Don King wig on backwards strapped to the back of my head and I look like a ... hood ornament from a Chevy, it was weird. But we experimented, we came up with 30 different characters that didn't get into the movie. The whole process is exciting. It's such a fun thing to masquerade, period."

**"I remember when I was a kid just loving creepy movies that scared me and at the same time were funny."**

Jim Carrey

Joining his masquerade in the film are Jude Law, Meryl Streep, Timothy Spall, Jennifer Coolidge, Cedric the Entertainer and British comedian Billy Connolly, who plays another distant relative who's a snake expert and always has a big huge python around his neck.

"Jim would always try to improvise something," Connolly recalls, remembering how in one scene Carrey picked up a snake-wrangling stick and putted around a piece of paper using live turtles as obstacles, as if on a miniature golf course. "It was just lovely to see his mind work that way and we all would collapse into laughter."

The children were played by "Road to Perdition's" Liam Aiken, Emily Browning from "Ned Kelly" and 2-year-old twins Kara and Shelby Hoffman, who alternated as the youngest child, Sunny. Browning says Carrey ate sardines and made his breath disgusting on purpose before shooting scenes with them.

"He always tried to crack us up, and scare us, too," Browning says. "Gosh, if they put all the outtakes together on the DVD, there'd be seven more hours of the movie."

Coming up, he's signed to do a big-screen version of "The Six Million Dollar Man," a remake of "Fun With Dick and Jane" and "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty." His wide variety of character ranges represent two sides of himself.

"I think the two me's are definitely meeting in the middle in some respects. I seem to have tripped into a time in my career where I have such a diversity of roles, so I feel incredibly lucky."



Actor Jim Carrey hams it up at the premiere of "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events" in Hollywood on Dec. 12. Carrey plays creepy Count Olaf.

## Powell takes coveted New Year position

Secretary of State Colin Powell will celebrate New Year's Eve in Times Square as the guest of honor at the 100th anniversary of the world-famous festivities.

Powell, a native New Yorker, will push the button to begin the New Year's Eve ball's descent as an expected 750,000 people swarm Times Square and more than a billion people worldwide watch on television.

"I could not imagine a better way to ring in the new year than being surrounded by the energy and enthusiasm of the American people and those watching on television together in the hopes of a brighter tomorrow," Powell said in a statement.

Powell announced plans last month to resign from the Bush administration and plans to leave early next year.

"Colin Powell is as New York as you could possibly be," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who made the announcement Tuesday.

## Royal wedding tapes profitable for charity

Proceeds from DVD sales of Prince Felipe's wedding have been donated to the families and victims of the Madrid train bombings.

A palace spokesman said Friday that \$230,375 had been sent to the Foundation for the Victims of Terrorism to be given to the victims of the March 11 attacks. Bombs tore through four early morning commuter trains in Madrid, killing 191 people and injuring some 1,800.

Prince Felipe and former TV anchorwoman Letizia Ortiz were married May 22. The wedding was filmed by Spanish Television with an agreement that proceeds from video sales be given to victims of the attacks.

The foundation also represents victims of attacks by the armed Basque separatist group ETA, which has killed more than 800 people since 1968.

## Actress breathes life back into Hephburn

Cate Blanchett comes on strong when she first appears as Katharine Hepburn in Martin Scorsese's new Howard Hughes biopic, "The Aviator." She's talking a mile-a-minute in that Hephburn accent.

Blanchett says Scorsese wanted it that way.



Ortiz and Prince Felipe

"He wanted Hephburn to come in the film with a bang. And so the scene is constructed with her talking her head off," she told AP Radio in an interview. "It's quite an assault on the senses."

Blanchett says Scorsese wanted the audience to ask themselves: "Oh, my God. Is that her? Is that Katharine Hephburn?"

"The Aviator" has received six Golden Globe nominations, including best supporting actress for Blanchett.

## Smoking may hurt health but helps career

Smoking is bad for your health, but it was good for Hong Kong martial arts queen Yuen Qiu's acting career.

Yuen, who appeared in the 1974 James Bond film, "The Man With the Golden Gun," landed a role in "Kung Fu Hustle," which opened in Hong Kong on Thursday, because the director liked the way she smoked, the South China Morning Post reported.

Yuen, a popular stuntwoman and kung-fu actress in the '70s, said she was accompanying a friend to an audition when director Stephen Chow saw her smoking. He was looking for someone who smoked the way she did and urged her to join the cast, she told the newspaper.

Chow, who directed and starred in 2001's "Shaolin Soccer," asked her to play a landlady in his new comedy about gangsters who try to take over a neighborhood full of kung fu masters disguised as ordinary residents.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

# Kranians head to polls again

Citizens decide on either Yushchenko or Yanukovich as the world watches

By NATASHA LISOVA

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Rival candidates Viktor Yushchenko and Viktor Yanukovich faced off Sunday in a repeat election triggered by a fraudulent runoff vote and massive protests that resulted in an unprecedented third round in Ukraine's fiercely waged presidential contest.

The vote is momentous for Ukraine, a nation of 48 million people caught between an eastward-expanding European Union and NATO, and an increasingly assertive Russia, its former imperial and Soviet-era master.

Opposition candidate Yushchenko, a former Central Bank chief and prime minister, wants to bring Ukraine closer to the West, while the Kremlin-backed Yanukovich, the current prime minister, emphasizes tightening the Slavic country's ties with Russia as a means to maintaining stability.

Orest Stepanchuk, a Kiev teacher, said he was casting her ballot for Yushchenko "because he offers us some prospects, some decent life." Another voter at the same precinct, Mykola Vladimirov, said he supported Yanukovich because "the others will sell the country to Americans."

"At least we now have a chance



Above: Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko gives a thumbs-up Sunday while holding his son Taras, 2, as he greets supporters at a polling station in Kiev. Yushchenko and Viktor Yanukovich (seen right at a polling station in Kiev) faced off Sunday in a repeat election that was triggered by fraud and huge protests.

to live as independent people, but with him [Yushchenko] we will be no more than American slaves," he said.

Yushchenko, whose face remains badly scarred from dioxin poisoning he blamed on Ukrainian authorities, has emerged as the front-runner, building on the momentum of round-the-clock protests that echoed the spirit of the anti-Communist revolutions that swept other East European countries in 1989-90.

His backers launched the demonstrations after Yanukovich was named the winner of the fraudulent Nov. 21 presidential runoff. The Supreme Court later annulled the results and ordered Sunday's repeat vote, an unprecedented third round being monitored by more than 12,000 international observers.

Outgoing President Leonid Kuchma said he cast his ballot hoping the results will stick. "In my opinion, the one who loses should call and congratulate the winner ... and put an end to this prolonged election campaign."

"What we did during the last 30 days was a tribute to our ancestors," Yushchenko told reporters after voting in Kiev's trade union building. "I know they are looking at us from heaven and they are applauding."

Casting his ballot at a different Kiev polling station alongside his wife, Lyudmila, Yanukovich said: "I voted for the future of Ukrainian people. I am waiting for Ukraine to make the right choice."

The election crisis has opened a rift between the Russian-speaking eastern regions, which largely back Yanukovich, and the cosmopolitan Kiev and the west, where Ukrainian nationalism runs deep and support for Yushchenko is high.

Despite the huge presence of foreign observers, both campaigns complained of some violations. Yanukovich's campaign complained that Yushchenko campaign material was found near some voting booths. Yushchenko's headquarters, meanwhile, com-



plained that the names of Ukrainians who had died were included on a voter list in Donetsk.

On Saturday, the Constitutional Court ruled against some amendments passed earlier this month that would have allowed only people with certain disabilities to vote at home. The court said all those unable to reach polling stations because of a disability or ill health be allowed to vote at home.

Yanukovich enjoys strong backing from elderly and disabled Ukrainians who saw their pensions raised twice during his time as prime minister.

## Repression, apathy mar Uzbek vote

By KADRY TOKTOGULOV

The Associated Press

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — President Islam Karimov slammed Europe's top election watchdog for criticizing Sunday's parliamentary vote in this Central Asian nation, where all opposition groups were barred from running for office.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which sent 21 observers, has said Uzbekistan provided insufficient conditions

for a democratic vote. OSCE said its presence should not be construed as a sign that the vote was legitimate.

"The OSCE cannot have the exclusive right to assess elections," Karimov said Sunday after casting his ballot at a polling station in the capital, Tashkent. "It represents Europe while we're in Central Asia."

Uzbekistan has hosted U.S. troops near its border with Afghanistan since 2001. But Washington has cut aid to this country, citing its lack of progress on democratic reforms.

"OSCE observers don't like the calm situation in which the elections are held and they are surprised why there's no fierce competition," Karimov said, defending the inactive candidates of the candidates, all of whom represent the five parties loyal to Karimov.

None of Uzbekistan's four small opposition groups are formally recognized. They said authorities rejected their registration requests.

Some opposition parties have urged voters to boycott the elections.

Karimov said Sunday that the country had no "real" opposition and that the existing opposition groups had no popular support.

Leader of the opposition Erk Party Antonov Arifov said Sunday's poll showed that "the government doesn't want either democratic rule or free elections with real competition."

The vote caps a year of growing public discontent over the lack of freedoms in this former Soviet republic and a series of deadly attacks blamed on radical Islamic groups.

The few voters who trickled into polling stations in the first few hours of the election in Tashkent expressed cynicism.

"Probably my vote will not decide anything," said one voter, Andrei Burdin.

Many appeared to have ignored the vote altogether.

"Nobody needs this election because life is only getting worse," said Karimov's son-in-law, 45, selling flowers at Tashkent's bustling Chorsu bazaar.

Karimov, a former Communist boss, has ruled with an iron fist since 1989 and drawn international criticism for his poor human rights record.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 27)	\$1.9812
Dollar buys (Dec. 27)	\$1.9144
Canada (dollar)	\$0.625
British pound (Dec. 27)	\$1.97
Japanese yen (Dec. 27)	\$0.006
South Korean won (Dec. 27)	1,020.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.9144
Canada (dollar)	\$0.625
Denmark (krone)	5.558
Egypt (pound)	\$0.224
Hong Kong (dollar)	\$1.3381/0.7472
Hungary (forint)	16.25
India (rupee)	61.82
Israel (shekel)	4.365
Japan (yen)	109.08
Kuwait (dinar)	0.2946
Netherlands (guilder)	0.1934
Philippines (peso)	56.98
Saudi (riyal)	3.75
Singapore (dollar)	1.6396
Switzerland (franc)	0.65
Switzerland (franc)	1.152
Taiwan (NT dollar)	1.3688/0.00
Turkey (lira)	1.3688/0.00

Money exchange rates are available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates, check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are in U.S. dollars unless otherwise noted. Except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-peso and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.

## PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$442.20
Silver	\$6.89

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
90-day T-bill	4.25
Federal funds market rate	2.25
1-year Treasury note	4.85
30-year bond	4.25

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America.

## Cents and Sensibility

### Money tip of the day

## Military info online

By NANCY DUNNAN

Whether you're active, retired or a prospective member of the Armed Forces, you'll find something of interest at [www.FirstGov.gov](http://www.FirstGov.gov).

The military section of this government Web site covers a wide variety of topics, including current military news, info

on ROTC and everything you need to know about benefits and retirement, family support, training and education, special home loans and life insurance.

Financial adviser, economist and security analyst Nancy Dunnan is the author of "How to Invest \$50 to \$5,000" she writes a weekly column for [theonlineinvestor.com](http://theonlineinvestor.com)

## Algerian explosion

ALGIERS, Algeria — A gas explosion Sunday in an Algerian apartment building killed 17 people and left about 30 injured, police said.

The explosion, caused by a gas leak in the building's ground floor, occurred at about 8:30 a.m. in the town of Ain Defla in the Guelma region, 280 miles east of the capital.

About 30 people were being treated for injuries, police said. On Saturday, Algerian security forces killed six suspected Islamic militants after raiding their hide-out in northern Algeria on a tip from neighbors, a newspaper reported.

From The Associated Press



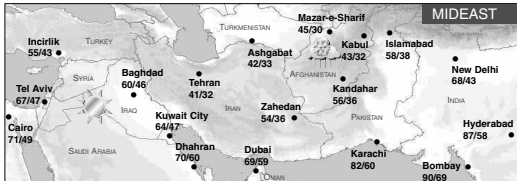
KEY: Sunny, Partly Cloudy, Mostly Cloudy, Cloudy, Showers, Tornado, Rain, Rain/snow, Snow, Cold front, Warm front, Trough, Occluded front, Slight high, Low High

## AFRICA

Cape Town	80	66	Mogadishu	89	76
Dakar	79	68	Nairobi	82	60
Freetown	87	75	Rabat	59	43
Windhoek	87	75	Yaounde	89	63

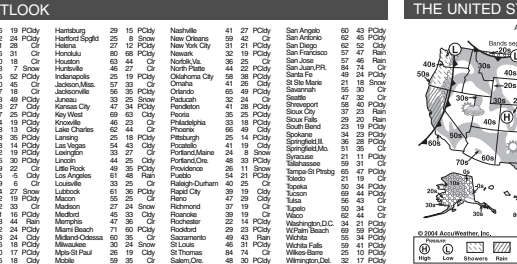
## THE WORLD

Amsterdam	41	34	Manila	88	77
Bahamas	65	50	Mexico City	89	78
Beijing	29	16	Montreal	52	40
Bombay	87	75	Mytilene	61	44
Buenos Aires	74	68	Rio de Jan.	84	74
Calcutta	88	72	Sao Paulo	36	16
Hankow	72	59	Sydney	84	63
Hong Kong	72	59	Tokyo	52	42



## TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alabama	51	Lo	OK	Cleveland	25	19	PC
Alaska	62	43	PC	Columbia Springs	25	18	PC
Arizona	52	17	PC	Columbia, S.C.	51	38	Cr
Arkansas	22	5	PC	Columbia, Mo.	55	21	Cr
California	51	30	PC	Columbus, Ohio	55	31	Cr
Colorado	54	31	Cr	Corpus Christi	73	7	Snow
Connecticut	29	16	PC	Dallas-Ft. Worth	57	18	Cr
Delaware	50	30	Cr	Daytona Beach	60	35	Cr
District of Columbia	50	30	Cr	Denver	53	48	PC
Florida	52	17	PC	Des Moines	53	27	PC
Georgia	61	43	PC	Detroit	27	15	PC
Hawaii	33	20	PC	Duluth	24	19	PC
Idaho	51	30	PC	El Paso	38	35	PC
Illinois	36	22	PC	El Paso	38	35	PC
Indiana	45	29	PC	Evansville	22	19	PC
Iowa	29	16	PC	Fort Wayne	22	19	PC
Kansas	54	31	Cr	Grand Rapids	32	24	PC
Kentucky	50	30	Cr	Green Bay	30	17	PC
Louisiana	54	31	Cr	Greenwood, Miss.	25	13	Cr
Maine	29	16	PC	Hartford	29	16	PC
Maryland	54	31	Cr	Houston	63	44	Cr
Massachusetts	29	16	PC	Indianapolis	25	19	PC
Michigan	54	31	Cr	Jacksonville	56	35	PC
Minnesota	29	16	PC	Jacksonville, Fla.	69	63	Cr
Mississippi	54	31	Cr	Kansas City	47	34	PC
Missouri	54	31	Cr	Las Vegas	61	48	Cr
Montana	29	16	PC	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
Nebraska	29	16	PC	Long Beach	62	44	Cr
Nevada	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
New Hampshire	29	16	PC	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
New Jersey	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
New Mexico	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
New York	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
North Carolina	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
North Dakota	29	16	PC	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
Ohio	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
Oklahoma	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
Oregon	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
Pennsylvania	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
Rhode Island	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
South Carolina	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
South Dakota	29	16	PC	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
Tennessee	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
Texas	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
Vermont	29	16	PC	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
Virginia	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
Washington	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
West Virginia	29	16	PC	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
Wisconsin	54	31	Cr	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr
Wyoming	29	16	PC	Los Angeles	62	44	Cr



## EUROPEAN FORECAST

**Benelux:** Partly to mostly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the upper 30s to lower 40s.

**Britain, Ireland:** Partly cloudy becoming cloudy with rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the mid to upper 40s.

**Croatia and Bosnia:** Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain and isolated thunderstorms throughout the day, and areas of fog over night. Highs in the mid 40 to lower 50s.

**France:** Partly to mostly cloudy, with isolated rain showers in the south. Highs in the mid 30s to lower 40s.

**Northern Germany:** Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain showers in the east in the morning. Highs in the upper 30s.

**Southern Germany:** Cloudy with areas of rain and snow in the morning. Highs in the mid 30s.

**Hungary:** Cloudy with areas of rain. Highs in the mid 40s.

**Northern Italy:** Cloudy with rain and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid to upper 40s.

**Southern Italy:** Cloudy with rain and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid to upper 50s.

**Kosovo:** Cloudy with rain and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 50s.

**Norway:** Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain and snow in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 20s to mid 30s.

**Portugal, Spain:** Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy with rain showers and thunderstorms along the southern coast. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s.

**Turkey:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts visit the USACE Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <https://ows.sembach.af.mil>  
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

## SUN &amp; MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	7:55AM	7:06AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	8:24AM	8:24AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	5:03PM	5:04PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	4:30PM	4:31PM

Last set: 3 Jan 05 New moon: 10 Jan 05 First set: 17 Jan 05 Full moon: 25 Jan 05

Scheduled to be on **ETS** or **PCS**?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

**STARS & STRIPES**  
Your Hometown Newspaper





Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



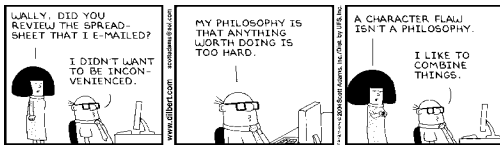
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



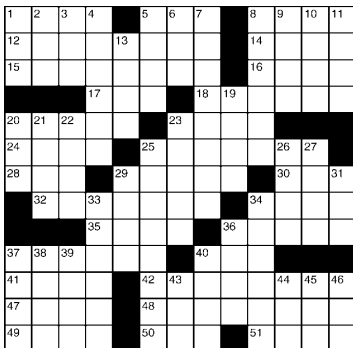
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Count counterpart
- 5 Rather's home
- 8 "Friends" role
- 12 Price-list periodical
- 14 Large show
- 15 Adam Sandler movie
- 16 Incubator noise
- 17 "Today" rival, for short
- 18 Begin
- 20 Actor Milo
- 23 A couple of cups
- 24 Slaughter of baseball
- 25 "So what?"
- 28 Scoot
- 29 Mehitabel's pal
- 30 Trot
- 32 Sasquatch
- 34 Surfboard support
- 35 Kate Hudson's mom
- 36 Spot on TV?
- 37 Spiritually revived
- 40 DEE rival
- 41 Bird, to Brutus
- 42 Kid's riding toy
- 47 Get it off your chest
- 48 Colorless liquor
- 49 Remnants
- 50 Army rank (Abb.)
- 51 Read bar codes

## Down

- 1 "Chicago" lyricist
- 2 "The Greatest"
- 3 Bad hairpiece
- 4 Silts
- 5 Last several notes
- 6 Physique
- 7 Ceiling feature
- 8 Character
- 9 The yoke's on them
- 10 Detail, briefly
- 11 Ex-trosh
- 13 Crimston Tide
- 19 Mayberry
- 20 "— the ramparts ..."
- 21 Ignore intentionally
- 22 Hagar the Horrible's daughter
- 23 Actress Molly
- 25 Take lunch to work
- 26 Trojan War hero
- 27 Get a bang out of
- 29 Way off
- 31 Solidify
- 33 Ibsen play
- 34 Desires
- 36 Church array
- 37 Carry on
- 38 Bump-free
- 39 Predicament
- 40 Not "fer"
- 43 Chemical suffix
- 44 The list goes on"
- 45 Greek vowel
- 46 Author Deighton

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 12-27

## CRYPTOQUIP

RH FAQ'EX IXDDRKM  
OZERIVNUI VEXXI, FAQ  
NRMZV VEF UKB MXV  
FAQEXDXH UDD IGEQOXB QG.

**Saturday's Cryptoquip:** I KEEP FAILING TO DIG A GOOD TRENCH, SO I'M PLANNING TO MAKE A LAST-DITCH EFFORT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals L







# Shaq-Kobe I goes to Heat in overtime

## Bryant scores game-high 42 points; O'Neal fouls out in fourth quarter

BY JOHN NADEL

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The brick wall came tumbling down Saturday.

But that didn't stop the Miami Heat from beating the Los Angeles Lakers in Shaq vs. Kobe I.

With Shaquille O'Neal watching from the bench after fouling out late in the fourth quarter, Dwyane Wade and Eddie Jones scored four points each in overtime and the Heat beat the Lakers 104-102 to extend their winning streak to 11 games, equaling a franchise record.

O'Neal had an explanation for his early exit.

"No layups, no dunks," he said. For everybody? "Basically everything, especially him," O'Neal replied.

O'Neal was referring to Kobe Bryant, a former teammate he has refused to identify by name for quite some time now.

The Heat (22-7) survived despite a season-high 42 points by Bryant. But the Lakers' star was held scoreless in overtime, missing three shots including a three-pointer at the buzzer.

"I had a pretty good look, but I didn't get the balance I would have liked on the shot," Bryant said.

"I knew that it wasn't going to go in," Bryant said. "It's called Shaq O'Neal fate."

O'Neal fouled out after getting

24 points and 11 rebounds in his first game against the Lakers since being traded to the Heat last summer.

"I felt I let my teammates down a little bit," he said. "My teammates told me they had my back. I wasn't worried at all."

O'Neal tied the game by dunking off a missed shot with three minutes left, but picked up his sixth foul 45 seconds later when Bryant drove toward the basket.

"I kind of forgot I had five," O'Neal said.

Bryant drew O'Neal's fifth foul in similar fashion with 4:04 to play.

Asked last Monday what would happen if Bryant drove the lane, O'Neal replied: "When you've got a Corvette that runs into a brick wall, you know what's going to happen."

"I didn't even realize he had five fouls," Bryant said. "I just attacked and went straight to the basket. He collapsed and I took it over to him."

Bryant said he knew the game would be cleanly played.

"I expected him to just come out here and play," he said. "I knew there was a lot of talk about the brick wall, and all that. But I think that was kind of just to hype the game."

Wade, who had 29 points and 10 assists, scored with 2:06 remaining to give the Heat a 104-99 lead. The Lakers drew within two points when Lamar Odom made



Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal had 24 points in his first game against the Los Angeles Lakers since being traded to the Miami Heat during the offseason. The Heat won 104-102 in overtime.

his second three-point shot of overtime with 1:11 to play.

But neither team scored after that. The Lakers got the ball one final time with 3.4 seconds to play, but Bryant closed out the game.

A pregame tribute to O'Neal was shown on the videoboard before he was introduced to a standing ovation that lasted about 40 seconds. Bryant stood in front of

the Lakers' bench and clapped throughout.

"O'Neal said he didn't watch the video."

"I didn't want to go back into flashback mode," he explained.

O'Neal and Bryant acknowledged each other briefly before the opening tipoff.

"I think it was great before the game that the fans paid their respects for all that he's done for the organization," Bryant said.

# No brawls for Pacers, Pistons in rematch

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Rasheed Wallace sauntered off the court and into the exit tunnel, pausing long enough to peel off his headband and hand it to a youngster wearing the rival's colors.

"Just a kid that asked for a headband, wasn't nothing more than that," Wallace said.

It was, however, a lot more than an empty gesture.

On an afternoon when many expected the worst in the first meeting between Indiana and Detroit since their Nov. 19 brawl, peace prevailed — as did the Pistons.

Nobody charged into the stands, nobody threw a beer, nobody threw a punch or a chair. Instead, the most significant thing anyone hoisted was a three-pointer by Wallace with 90 seconds left in Detroit's 98-93 victory Saturday.

"It was just a regular game, everybody playing the way they play," Pistons center Ben Wallace said. "It wasn't like we were out there intimidated, not wanting to touch anybody because it might start a fight. We were out there to play basketball and that's the way it should be."

The game went off with barely a harsh word exchanged by the teams, whose previous meeting degenerated into one of the worst meltdowns in the history of U.S. professional sports.

Wallace was booed every time he touched the ball, and fans behind the Detroit bench let loose with a few words of angry-but-ignorant heckling that the players ignored.

A tarp covered most of the exit tunnel, but it was unnecessary.

The sellout crowd behaved, and the small contingent of fans who yelled at the Pistons as they walked off the court — none of whom appeared older than 12 — wanted nothing more than a hand slap or a headband.

"I think it was over-hyped," said Reggie Miller, who led Indiana with 24 points. "We knew it was going to be a grind-it-out game for 48 minutes. They did all the little things, and that made the difference."

The only positive for Indiana was the return of Jermaine O'Neal, whose brawl-related suspension was reduced by an arbitrator from 25 games to 15. O'Neal had 21 points, seven rebounds and five blocks, but his poor starts to the first and second halves set the tone on an afternoon when the Pacers too often had to play catch-up.

Richard Hamilton scored 25 points, Chris Doleal had four three-pointers and scored 20, Tayshawn Prince added 18 and Rasheed Wallace had 16 for the Pistons, while Ben Wallace had 16 for the Pacers, but he had his own problems since the brawl.

The victory moved the defending NBA champions just one game over 500 (15-12) in a season that has been defined by the Nov. 19 game against Indiana.

## NBA scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
New York	13	13	503
Boston	13	14	460
Philadelphia	11	14	440
Toronto	10	18	357

Southeast Division			
Miami	12	7	759
Orlando	10	10	680
Washington	14	10	593
Charlotte	7	10	518
Atlanta	5	20	380

Central Division			
Cleveland	11	11	577
Detroit	12	12	530
Chicago	12	13	489
Indiana	6	16	375
Milwaukee	6	16	273

### Western Conference

Southwest Division			
San Antonio	10	6	778
Dallas	11	6	520
Houston	21	4	482
Memphis	12	13	480
New Orleans	13	13	480

Northwest Division			
Seattle	19	5	792
Minnesota	12	12	520
Portland	13	12	520
Denver	17	6	500
Utah	16	40	395

Pacific Division			
Phoenix	21	3	885
Sacramento	17	8	520
L.A. Lakers	12	13	536
L.A. Clippers	12	13	536
Golden State	8	18	308

Friday's games			
Detroit 88, Indiana 102	OT		
San Antonio 93, Miami 87			

Saturday's games			
Charlotte at New York			
Chicago at Milwaukee			
Boston at San Antonio			
Orlando at Cleveland			
Toronto at Phoenix			
San Antonio at Minnesota			
Golden State at Sacramento			
L.A. Clippers at Houston			

Monday's games			
Golden State at Sacramento			
New York at Orlando			

Charlotte at Washington

New Orleans at Indiana

Atlanta at Miami

New Jersey at Detroit

L.A. Clippers at Memphis

Seattle at Utah

Philadelphia at Portland

Denver at Golden State

Phoenix at Dallas

San Antonio at Houston

San Antonio at Houston

San Antonio at Houston

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# The chase is on in WCC

## This season, others in conference insist Gonzaga can be caught

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

The West Coast Conference for the past few years has been Gonzaga and everybody else.

But as the other schools already have shown this season, there's a whole lot more to the WCC than the No. 13 Bulldogs.

Santa Clara shocked North Carolina and upended neighbor Stanford in an opening month that brought the Broncos their most national attention since Steve Nash was running the point.

Saint Mary's earned a trip to Madison Square Garden and plenty of exposure in the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic, San Francisco put together its longest winning streak in five years under new coach Jessie Evans.

"I don't know if you can call it a mid-major conference anymore," said California coach Ben Braun, whose Bears lost to Saint Mary's earlier this season. "They can play with anyone in the country."

Longtime Santa Clara coach Dick Davay has been around the WCC long enough to recognize a special season before it begins. He is convinced this could be one of those years, especially for the

**"Everybody knows Gonzaga's beatable now. Everyone in the conference looks like they have a chance to win it."**

**Doron Perkins**  
Santa Clara guard

San Francisco Bay area teams determined to finally make things tough for the favored Bulldogs.

Gonzaga coach Mark Few knows it won't be easy.

"I've always said this conference is competitive. It has better players than people realize and has always had good, quality coaches," Few said. "It's a conference that has always been underrated. It's said it takes a couple of big non-conference wins for people to see how competitive this conference is and to appreciate it more."

Gonzaga's greatness in the WCC resembles the dominance of

those talented 1970s San Francisco teams featuring Bill Cartwright, James Hardy and Winford Boynes — and the Bulldogs are showing no signs of a let-down.

While Gonzaga is still the team to beat, the standings could be more crowded near the top than in years past.

"Gonzaga was really good last year," Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said. "People keep thinking they're going to drop off, but they're not going to drop off. We, Santa Clara and Pepperdine have figured out they're not dropping off, so you better improve your program."

"That's what's happening. There are a lot of teams that want a piece of that."

The Zags, who jumped nine spots in the latest AP poll after their victory over Georgia Tech last Saturday, have won five of the last six WCC tournaments and a share of the regular-season title in four of the past seven years. They didn't lose a league game last year.

Gonzaga will get an immediate test this time around, opening the conference campaign at Santa Clara on Jan. 6 and then playing at Saint Mary's two days later. Pepperdine is another contender.

"Everybody knows Gonzaga's beatable now," Santa Clara guard Doron Perkins said. "Everyone in the conference looks like they have a chance to win it."

Saint Mary's and Santa Clara made splashes early, but both also lost key games that could hurt their NCAA tournament chances come March. The Gaels lost to Memphis in the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic, then lost on the road to Rutgers and Hawaii.

After defeating North Carolina and Stanford, the Broncos lost to Pacific, Cal Poly and UC Irvine. And they were defeated 68-63 at Arizona State on Wednesday.

The WCC is eighth in the latest RPI ratings, highest ever for the conference. The WCC is on pace to top its previous best non-conference showing, a 649 winning percentage in 1978-79.

"It might be the best year. Time will tell because time tests where you are," said Davay, who's in his 13th season as coach of the Broncos. "But at this point in the season, this is as strong as I've seen our conference in a long, long, long time. My thinking is more along the lines that maybe we have enough teams that are good enough this year that we might be able to get two or three teams in the tournament rather than one, which is customary."

The WCC has had two teams reach the NCAA tournament only five times in the last 15 years and has never sent three teams.

In the 1950s, San Francisco won consecutive NCAA titles thanks to stars such as Bill Russell and K.C. Jones. The Loyola



**Gonzaga's Pierre Marie Altidor-Cespedes chases down a loose ball during a recent victory over Eastern Washington. Although Gonzaga is still the team to beat in the West Coast Conference, other schools believe this is the season the Zags might finally be caught.**

Marymount teams of the '90s with Hank Gathers and Bo Kimble provided another glimpse of the conference's potential.

"People don't realize how tough it is to win on the road in this conference," Few said. "For us to go 14-0 like we did last year was remarkable. For anybody to go undefeated in this conference is quite an accomplishment, and I don't say that because we were the ones to do it last year."

# Matt Heldman's legacy still a driving force for No. 1 Illini

BY MARLEN GARCIA

Chicago Tribune

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — The players see Matt Heldman every day in the framed, glossy photograph that hangs in their locker room.

They see an undersized, skinny kid who lived every moment to its fullest on the basketball court and had a gigantic presence for a 6-foot, 165-pound player.

Matt Heldman's spirit remains a fixture at Illinois nearly seven years after he helped lead the Illini to a Big Ten title and five years since he and his father, Otis, died in a car accident. Matt was 23.

The hardest-working members of Illinois' top-ranked team honor Heldman's memory every day they dive onto the floor to recover loose balls or make gutsy defensive plays.

Coaches sometimes refer to these plays as "intangibles," hard-nosed, aggressive moves coaches praise from the press-box levels all the way up to the NBA.

"It's the little things," coach Bruce Weber said. "Being on your toes, getting deflections, being in position to get a change."

Illinois coaches recognize and reward such gritty, determined effort by awarding points to players on the "Matto chart," a statistical record team managers update during every Illinois game.

The player who makes the most plays has his name posted in the

## Commentary

locker room at the Assembly Hall, again in Heldman's name. The player who accumulates the most plays through the course of the season has his name inscribed on a plaque hanging in the locker room that commemorates Heldman's contributions.

"That's a great award to win," third-year guard Dee Brown said. "It means you're playing hard no matter what's going on in the game."

Since his arrival at Illinois, Brown proudly has monopolized the award, winning it at the conclusion of his freshman and sophomore seasons. And he's on his way to a third straight.

Undersized like Heldman and loaded with talent and competitiveness, Brown identifies with the legacy and the standard of excellence Heldman left for Illinois players who follow him.

"I really don't know that much about the tradition of players that have been here," Brown said. "I really didn't watch Illinois basketball growing up. But I knew who Matt Heldman was. It was an honor to have that award."

Heldman left an impression wherever he played. He starred for Libertyville High School through his senior year in 1994.

Former Illinois coach Lou Henson recruited and signed him.

Those who enter Libertyville's gymnasium learn a little about Heldman when they look up at the scoreboard dedicated to him in December 2000.

Earlier this year, the student fan group at Illinois, the Orange Krush, asked Heldman's mother and sister to attend the dedication of a scholarship in his name. The students raised \$250,000 for the endowment.

Lucas Johnson, whose older brother Brian played and roomed with Heldman, won the award in 2002, the first year Illinois officially recognized it.

"It was really emotional for me," Johnson said, "and that had to do completely with Matt and everything he gave to Illinois."

Former Illini assistant Rob Judson, now the coach at Northern Illinois, gave Heldman the nickname Matto and later helped create the award.

"He weighed 175 pounds on his good days," Judson said. "But he would face any obstacle or disadvantage by playing his heart out every game. You could never say no to Matt because he was going to find a way to get the job done regardless of the odds."

"It's inspirational. His legacy is there. The film clips are still there."

Above all, his heart and soul are still there.

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## Lima rejoins Royals with 1-year pact

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Jose Lima rejoined the Kansas City Royals when he agreed to a one-year contract Saturday, hoping to provide stability and leadership to a rotation that was awful last season.

Lima, who pitched for the Royals in 2003, spent last season with Los Angeles, going 13-5 with a 4.07 ERA. He walked 34 and struck out 93 in 170 innings, then threw a shutout in the NL playoffs against St. Louis.

In 12 major league seasons, the right-hander is 84-82 with a 5.00 ERA. His best stretch came in 1998 and 1999, when he went 16-8 and 21-10, respectively, for the Houston Astros.

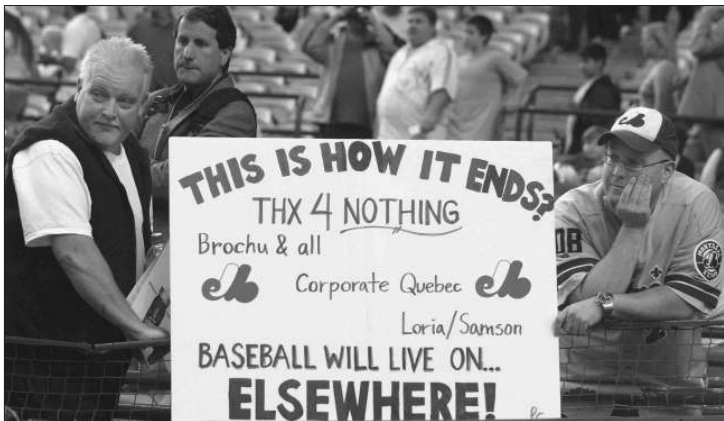
"He's a proven guy that can give you innings and wants the ball in big situations, so we're glad to have him," Royals general manager Allard Baird said.

Terms of the deal were not immediately available.

Two years ago, Kansas City plucked Lima from the roster of the Newark Bears of the independent Atlantic League at midseason. His 8-3 record with a 4.91 ERA in 14 starts helped the Royals to their first winning record in a non-strike year since 1993.

Last season, the Royals lost a team-record 104 games as injuries kept their pitching staff unsettled throughout. The staff had only three shutouts and had the AL's worst ERA (5.15).

"From a pitching standpoint, we're going young," Baird said. "We really needed an innings guy to add to our rotation — not only to add stability, but to protect our bullpen."



Some fans show their feelings before the Montreal Expos' final home game last Sept. 29. The Expos will move to Washington, D.C. next season.

## Gone, and soon to be forgotten

BY SEAN FARRELL  
For The Associated Press

MONTREAL — The artificial turf is gone, leaving a concrete floor at barren Olympic Stadium and an even harder truth in Montreal: The Expos are long gone.

Since the end of the season, Claude Delorme, the Expos' executive vice president for business affairs, has overseen the winding up of the team's operations.

### After 36 years, the Montreal Expos are reduced to bleak empty spaces

"There's no doubt that we prolonged our life," Delorme said. "We were able to extend ourselves a few extra years that people didn't think we would."

Delorme's unenviable new role began in earnest on Sept. 29 when team president Tony Tavares confirmed the franchise's long-anticipated move to Washington, D.C., for 2005. The Expos played their final game at Olympic Stadium that evening, an anticlimactic 9-1 loss to Florida.

Now, the protective screen behind home plate is rolled up, though it remains suspended from the desolate stadium's roof.

For the moment, the padded blue outfield walls — 325 feet in the corners, and 404 feet to dead center — have been placed in storage in the bowels of the building.

Nets that served as foul poles have been removed, though the bright orange lines on the roof survive as reminders of a Dave Kingman moonshot that necessitated a new ground rule and a perilous paint job.

A familiar and long-serving reminder of the longest home in stadium history has been removed, though.

There is now an empty space where Seat 13 used to be in Section 351, Row C among the rows of grungy burnt orange seats in the stadium's distant middle deck. The yellow seat that marked Willie Stargell's mammoth 535-foot homer off Wayne Twitchell on May 20, 1978, has gone to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Back in the team's offices, a nondescript black binder sits on a

shelf behind Delorme. He began putting it together three years ago and said it proved an invaluable resource in winding up the team's operations in Montreal.

"It's basically a to-do list," Delorme said. "There were pages for every department and every individual. From disposal of the office furniture to ensuring that the alarm and telephone systems were canceled, it addressed the nuts and bolts of our operations."

The worst part of the job for Delorme was whittling down the staff. No one was surprised by the move, though the shock was significant after years of rumors.

"The human factor was definitely by far the biggest issue I had to deal with," Delorme said. "I really thought that we were all prepared mentally for this, but when it happened it was a lot more severe than we probably all anticipated. It was a family setting here and it was very emotional."

The Expos' remaining skeleton staff is down to 10 people. This Wednesday, the club set up card tables for a farewell lunch as several more long-serving employees worked their final day.

"I don't think I've had the opportunity to really reflect and say, 'Wow, this is finished. It's time to turn the page,'" Delorme said. "It's probably going to happen in the next two weeks during the Christmas holidays."

Media relations and services director Monique Giroux finished up work in her empty office Wednesday after sending out the Expos' last official press release, which indicated how the team's artifacts were being distributed among various caretaker institutions.

An original employee who joined the expansion franchise in November 1968, Giroux was in good spirits despite the bleak environment.

"It's just like any other thing, it's the end of an era — thank you, goodbye," Giroux said, breaking into resigned laughter. "I don't have any hard feelings. It's been a great ride. The only thing I regret is that we didn't have the downtown stadium. That would have been a big asset for the city."

Condominiums are under construction on the site just south of the Bell Centre, where the failed stadium project would have been built.

The only championship in the Expos' 36-year history was the 1981 NL East title, when Montreal won a playoff against Philadelphia after finishing first in the division during the second half of the strike-shortened season.

The team's mascot, a fuzzy orange Muppet-inspired character named Youpi!, will remain in Quebec with his trademark exclamation point on his back. Enormously popular with children, Youpi! nonetheless will be stripped of the team's logos, which will remain property of the franchise once his rights are transferred.

For the time being, Youpi! and Dodgers closer Eric Gagne, a Montreal native who grew up within blocks of the stadium, likely will remain the biggest links between baseball and the city that allowed Jackie Robinson to break the game's color barrier with the minor league Royals in 1946.

While she doesn't see baseball returning to Montreal any time soon, Giroux wouldn't rule out the possibility much farther down the road.

"It's a big market," Giroux said. "You never know."

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# Heisman winner Leinart also AP's player of the year

By RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Matt Leinart found a comfort zone this season.

No longer worried about losing his job, the easygoing Southern California quarterback became the unquestioned leader of the Trojans. He performed the job so well in his second year as a starter that he also became The Associated Press player of the year.

"A year of experience opens up so much," the Heisman Trophy winner said.

"You've been around. You're a veteran. You've been playing for a year. You can get so much better in a year or so."

Leinart has completed 66 percent of his passes for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns, guiding the top-ranked Trojans to an Orange Bowl matchup with No. 2 Oklahoma and USC's AP player of the year, Jason White.

The BCS national title game will be college football's first matchup of players with Heisman trophies. White took home last year's Heisman.

The AP player of the year voting was closer than this season's Heisman balloting, but the final order was similar. Leinart received 17 votes from a nationwide panel of 64 media members.

White and his freshman teammate, Adrian Peterson, tied for second with 12 votes each.

USC tailback Reggie Bush was fourth with 11 votes and Utah quarterback Alex Smith had nine votes. Texas tailback Cedric Benson received two votes and Louisi-

## AP Player of the Year voting

Player, Team	Votes
Matt Leinart, USC	17
Adrian Peterson, Oklahoma	12
Jason White, Oklahoma	12
Reggie Bush, USC	11
Alex Smith, Utah	9
Cedric Benson, Texas	2
Stephen Lefors, Louisville	1

ville quarterback Stefan Lefors got one.

In the Heisman balloting, Leinart easily beat out Peterson, who took second by a slim margin over White. Smith was fourth and Bush fifth.

Leinart is the fifth straight quarterback to win the AP award, following White, Iowa's Brad Banks, Florida's Rex Grossman and Oklahoma's Josh Heupel.

The award was established in 1958, and Texas tailback Ricky Williams was the first to win it.

Leinart became the Trojans' starting quarterback last season, taking over for departed 2002 Heisman Trophy winner Carson Palmer.

He won a four-way battle in the preseason for the job and it took him awhile to stop looking over his shoulder to see if he was about to be taken out of the game.

"This year has been more fun because I haven't felt as much pressure," the junior said.

Playing with two NFL-caliber wideouts and behind one of the best lines in the country, Leinart passed for 3,556 yards and 38 touchdowns and led USC to a share of the national title in 2003.

This year, with receivers Mike Williams and Keary Colbert gone and the line retooled, Leinart was

key in pulling together the new pieces and helping the Trojans go 12-0.

"I knew going in that I was going to have take on a different perspective," Leinart said.

And he did so without any prompting from coach Pete Carroll or offensive coordinator Norm Chow.

"I took it upon myself just to be the leader," he said. "I really didn't have to change anything, just to carry the guys along until they got comfortable."

"I'm not a real vocal guy, but I can be," he said.

The left-hander's laid-back leadership has set the tone for the Trojans. His poise and patience were invaluable in come-from-behind road victories over Virginia Tech, Stanford and Oregon State. He threw for 761 yards with six touchdowns and one interception in those games.

Leinart's consistency has been remarkable. The Trojans are 24-1 with him as a starter and have won 21 straight, heading into the BCS national title game.

Leinart has thrown at least two touchdown passes 10 times this season and 22 times in his career. USC's last game, a 29-24 victory over UCLA, was the first of his career without a touchdown pass.

Leinart has said he intends to return to USC for his senior year, but it's looking like he's a lock to be a high first-round NFL draft pick. He could even match Palmer again and go first overall.

"I'm aware of the opportunity," Leinart said. "We'll see what happens."



Southern California quarterback Matt Leinart has completed 66 percent of his passes for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns, guiding the top-ranked Trojans to an Orange Bowl matchup with No. 2 Oklahoma.

# AP voters select Auburn's Tuberville as college football coach of the year

By RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tommy Tuberville followed the most difficult season of his coaching career with the best.

A year after he was nearly replaced by Auburn, Tuberville is The Associated Press coach of the year.

"I learned a lot last year from what we went through at the end of the season," he said. "I've been more relaxed this season."

In his sixth season at Auburn, Tuberville has led the third-ranked Tigers to a 12-0 regular season and its first Southeastern Conference championship in 15 years.

"It's probably been my easiest season as a head coach because of the great senior leadership this team has," Tuberville said.

"Coaches tend to think the world is on their shoulders. I've delegated more authority this season and before. Because of that I think it's been an easier year."

But not quite perfect, despite the perfect record.



Tuberville

The Tigers failed to reach the Orange Bowl to play for the Bowl Championship Series national title. Auburn never could get past Oklahoma and Southern California in the first round.

BCS standings and will play Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 3.

Tuberville did far better in the coach of the year voting than his team did in the polls. He was a runaway winner, getting 35 of the 63 votes from the panel of media members.

Utah coach Mike Meyer was second with 14 votes. Meyer led the Utes to an unbeaten season and a berth in the BCS before taking the Florida job.

USC's Pete Carroll and Iowa's Kirk Ferentz received four votes, California's Jeff Tedford got

## AP Coach of the Year voting

Coach, Team	Votes
Tommy Tuberville, Auburn	35
Urban Meyer, Utah	14
Pete Carroll, USC	4
Jeff Tedford, California	4
Mike Price, UTEP	2
Bobby Petrino, Louisville	2
Bob Stoops, Oklahoma	1

three votes and Texas-El Paso's Mike Price got two. Oklahoma's Bob Stoops and Louisville's Bobby Petrino each received one vote.

Tuberville is the second straight SEC coach to win the AP award. LSU's Nick Saban was last year's winner.

As disappointing as being left out of the title game has been for Tuberville and his undefeated Tigers, this season has been far more enjoyable than last.

The Tigers began the 2003 campaign ranked in the top 10 and favored to win the SEC. But they lost their first two games of the season and stumbled to a disappointing 8-5 finish. There was speculation late in the season Tuberville might be on the way out.

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# Tulsa men's hoop coach Phillips resigns

The Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — John Phillips resigned Saturday as Tulsa's basketball coach after opening 2-5. Phillips led Tulsa to the NCAA tournament in his first two seasons, but the Golden Hurricane slipped to 2-20 last year and have lost four of their past five games this season.

"The last couple of months have been very difficult for me, my family and the players," Phillips said in a statement.

"Sometimes, change can bring about growth. My hope is that all TU fans will support the players through the remainder of the season and we will all witness tremendous progress."

Assistant coach Alvin Williamson will take over on an interim basis. The school offered Phillips a chance to stay on as assistant athletic director.

"Obviously, this is not the way that I envisioned becoming a head coach," said Williamson, who also played at Tulsa. "Coach Phillips has been very influential in my coaching career. As coaches, we're going to put our entire energy into this basketball team and our next opportunity."

Phillips was hired in April 2001, inheriting a strong program built up by former coaches Tubby Smith, Bill Self and Buzz Peterson. Tulsa went to the NCAA tournament six times in eight years before Phillips took over.

The Golden Hurricane opened this season with a loss to Wright State, then were blown out by cross-town rival Oral Roberts. The final straw was a 91-85 home loss Wednesday to Lamar — a team that hadn't won a regular game in more than a year.

# LSU's Saban agrees to coach Dolphins

## Five-year contract worth nearly \$25 million has not yet been signed

By MARK LONG  
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — LSU coach Nick Saban finally turned pro Saturday, prompting a Christmas night celebration at the home of Miami Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga.

"My wife and I high-fived each other," Huizenga said. The billionaire businessman anxiously watched from Fort Lauderdale as Saban held a televised news conference in Orlando to announce he would accept an offer to coach the Dolphins.

Saban, courted repeatedly by the NFL in recent years, mullied over the offer for three days before disclosing his decision shortly after the Tigers arrived in Orlando for their Jan. 1 bowl game against Iowa.

"It's a tremendous challenge for me," he said, "and a great opportunity for me and my family." No contract has been signed, but Saban agreed to a five-year deal worth almost \$5 million per year.

He first interviewed for the job last week at his home in Baton Rouge, La., hosting Huizenga and president Eddie Jones for dinner. He met with them again Friday and said he agreed in principle to a deal.

But Huizenga said he was unsure they had an agreement until the news conference. "If somebody held a gun to my head 10 minutes ago, I couldn't tell you," Huizenga said moments after Saban's announcement. "I had a good feeling, but I really did not know."

Saban, 53, will coach LSU in the bowl game before taking over a long-prod franchise enduring its worst season since the 1960s. He becomes the sixth coach in team history, and the fourth since Huizenga took over as owner in 1994.



Nick Saban, who announced on Saturday that he will take over a Dolphins team coming off its worst season since the 1960s, will coach LSU against Iowa in the Capital One Bowl on Jan. 1 in Orlando, Fla.

Touted as NFL material even when he was at Michigan State in the late 1990s, Saban has turned down previous overtures from at least five pro teams, including Atlanta and Chicago a year ago. He has been considered the favorite to become the Dolphins' coach since Dave Wannstedt resigned last month when they were 1-8.

Upon arriving in Orlando, Saban met with his players to inform them he was leaving. Accompanied by four uniformed Louisiana police officers, he walked through a nearly deserted hotel lobby to a huge ballroom, where he spoke to about a dozen reporters and cameramen.

He said the Dolphins' job carried special appeal even though they're one of the NFL's worst teams at 3-11.

"I have a lot of respect and gratitude for everybody who has been interested in me through the

years," Saban said. "I just felt like this opportunity, with this organization, was one of the best that's ever been presented to me in terms of how you can control your destiny in the organization, the commitment the organization has to winning and the tradition that they have in winning."

Huizenga's willingness to give Saban full authority over the football operation could mean the demotion or departure of general manager Rick Spielman.

Saban is 9-2 this season and 48-15 in five years at LSU, taking his team to a bowl game every season.

"It's the most self-gratifying experience I've had as a coach," Saban said. "But I've always been driven by challenges — the next challenge that makes driven people want to take advantage of the next opportunity."

The highest-paid coach in col-

lege football, Saban is in the first year of an \$18.45 million, seven-year contract at LSU, but the deal has no buyout clause penalizing him for taking another job.

LSU went 3-8 the year before he arrived and 8-4 in his first season. A Southeastern Conference title followed in 2001, and he led the Tigers to last season's BCS national championship.

"You look around and say, 'OK, who's out there that's better than that?'" Huizenga said. "I couldn't find anybody."

The other candidates interviewed by Huizenga were former Oakland Raiders coach Art Shell and Dolphins interim coach Jim Bates. Many Miami players lobbied for Huizenga to keep Bates, who is 2-3 since being promoted from defensive coordinator. His team plays Cleveland on Sunday night.

Bates may return to his former job in season.

"I think if we talk about it, we'll know for works for both of us," Saban said. He and Bates were assistants together with the Browns in 1991-1993.

Also on that staff was Saban's close friend Bill Belichick, coach of the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots. They now become AFC East rivals.

Saban's other NFL experience was as an assistant coach with the Houston Oilers in 1988-89.

LSU defensive end Melvin Oliver said players recognized Saban had an opportunity he couldn't pass up.

"We're taking it in stride," Oliver said. "He's got to do what's best for him and his family. We understand that."

Oliver also said Saban's decision won't affect the team's preparation for the bowl game.

"The coach is dedicated, and this won't be a distraction," Oliver said.

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## Vanderbilt RB shot to death

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Vanderbilt running back Kwane Doster was shot to death early Sunday when someone fired at the parked car he was in, police said.

Doster, 21, of Tampa, died at Tampa General Hospital after being shot near the Ybor City nightlife district, police spokesman Joe Durkin said. Detectives were trying to find the killer and determine a motive.

Doster and two friends had stopped their car while "cruising around" when another car pulled up beside them, Durkin said.

Police believe three people fired at Doster's car, and one hit him in the chest while he was sitting behind the driver. No one else was hurt, in police said.

"I don't believe any words were exchanged," Durkin said, adding that investigators didn't know if Doster was the intended target.

A message left for a Vanderbilt spokesman on Sunday was not immediately returned.

The junior running back ran for 437 yards and one touchdown

this season for the Commodores (2-9). For his career, Doster had 1,621 yards rushing, 256 yards receiving and seven touchdowns.

Defending junior hockey champ U.S. opens with win

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — Dan Fritsche scored twice — including a tiebreaking short-handed goal — to lead the defending champion United States team to a 5-4 victory over Russia on Saturday night in the opening round of the World Junior Hockey Championship.

Fritsche's second goal, scored midway through the second period, was the winner. The Americans took leads of 2-0, 3-2 and 4-3 against Russia, the tournament champion.

Robbie Schremp, Chris Bourque and Drew Stafford had the other goals for the United States, which got 30 saves from Al Montoya of Michigan, a first-round draft pick of the New York Rangers.

# Broncos still in playoff race

BY TERESA M. WALKER

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Jake Plummer broke out of his slump with a nearly perfect start and kept the Denver Broncos in the playoff race.

Plummer threw for 303 yards and two touchdowns, and Reuben Droughns scored three TDs as the Broncos beat the Tennessee Titans 37-16 Saturday night to stay in at least a tie for the AFC's final wild-card spot going into the final week of the season.

Denver (9-6) had lost three of its last four games with two of those losses to teams with losing records, including last week's 45-17 rout at Kansas City. Plummer hurt Denver more than he helped with nine interceptions and only two touchdowns during the game.

Against a defense missing six starters, Plummer had one pass intercepted, giving him an NFL-high 20 this season, but otherwise was superb.

The Broncos gave coach Mike Shanahan his 100th regular-season victory with the franchise by defeating his friend, Titans coach Jeff Fisher, his worst home loss in six seasons at The Coliseum. See-



**Denver Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer threw for 303 yards and two touchdowns on Saturday.**

ing such a performance from his heavily criticized quarterback didn't hurt either.

"For him to come back and fight the way he did under the circumstances, I was pleased," Shanahan said.

The past month hadn't been easy for Plummer, who struggled on the field and off, even paying a fine last week for an obscene gesture. He couldn't have started the game much better.

He completed his first eight passes, had a perfect passer rating of 158.3 in the first quarter and was 10-for-11 for 144 yards early in the second. He helped

Denver score on its first three plays for a 17-3 lead. He had a 23-yard TD pass to Droughns on the first drive for a lead the Broncos didn't relinquish.

Plummer was not sacked and finished 21-for-26.

"It is always good for a quarterback to have confidence, especially after all of the criticism," Denver receiver Ashley Lelie said. "For him to step up and play like he did just shows what type of character he has. We all thank him for playing as well as he did."

Denver fifthed the Titans (4-11) their first straight loss by shutting down Billy Volek, who was trying to become the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for 400 yards in three consecutive games.

Reggie Hayward had three of the Broncos' six sacks, and the defense also forced two turnovers and limited Tennessee to a season-low 153 yards of offense. The Titans dropped to 1-6 at home this season before a stadium that was nearly empty in the final minutes on the cold Christmas night.

"We wanted to bounce back," Hayward said. "We got embarrassed last week. We wanted to come back with a strong showing against Tennessee."

# Late FG lifts Chiefs past Raiders

BY DOUG TUCKER

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — As the Kansas City Chiefs moved into position for the game-winning field goal, Lawrence Tynes was wishing he'd washed his car.

"That's always been the game-day good luck charm for Kansas City's rookie kicker. But he went ahead and drilled a 38-yarder with 22 seconds left, lifting the Chiefs to a 31-30 victory Saturday over the Oakland Raiders.

"It was too cold this morning (to wash the car)," Tynes said after booting his first game-winning field goal in the NFL. "I was thinking I should have washed it."

No matter how filthy Tynes' transportation might be, he probably would have gotten on the field if not for Dante Hall's 49-yard kickoff return after Sebastian Janikowski's third field goal, a 46-yarder, put the Raiders on top 30-28 with 1:03 to play.

Hall waited as the expected sack kicked bounced perfectly into his arms and then set sail behind some excellent blocks.

White retired again after the 1998 season and took a year off from football. After the Packers allowed him out of his contract, White returned to the Panthers last season and played for \$1 million.

"I will always miss the locker room and the guys, but I know God's will for me to move on to other challenges beyond the NFL in me like it used to be," White said at the time.

White's last season was disappointing in many ways, including a victory over New England in 1997, when he set a Super Bowl record with three sacks.

White worked tirelessly with inner-city kids and to bridge the racial and economic divide. But his image was tarnished when he gave a speech in which he denounced homosexuality and used ethnic stereotypes. White later apologized for any harm his comments might have caused.

White was 39 when he finished his NFL career with Carolina, leaving the game with 198 sacks.

"Most teams in situations like that tend to squib kick them," Hall said. "It was just a matter of catching it, finding the right bounce."

It was the fourth victory in a row for the Chiefs (7-8), whose Super Bowl hopes were dashed by opening 1-3 and enduring a four-game losing streak in November.

Janikowski scored the last nine points for Oakland (5-10) on three field goals, including a 45-yarder that made it 28-27 with 3:49 left.

"This is very frustrating," Oakland running back Amos Zereoue said. "You can't ask for much more than we gave out there."

Hall was not stopped until Janikowski got him on the Raiders 36.

Then Trent Green, whose fumble had led to Janikowski's go-ahead field goal, completed passes to Chris Horn and Tony Gonzalez and Tynes roared onto the field.

"We knew it was going to come down to stopping them on defense one more time," Oakland defensive tackle Warren Sapp said. "We just couldn't get the little fella down. He made an excellent return."

White made eight years with the Eagles and six with the Packers before a final one with the Panthers.

Remarkably durable, White missed only one game in his last 12 seasons and started all but three games during that span.

## NFL scorecard

### American Conference

**East**

**Week 17**

**W L T Pct PF PA**

x-New England 12 0 0 .857 303 246

N.Y. Jets 10 0 0 .714 297 246

Buffalo 8 6 0 .571 320 246

Oakland 6 10 0 .342 317

### South

x-Indianapolis 13 0 0 .786 474 287

Jacksonville 6 6 0 .571 248 253

Tennessee 6 6 0 .571 274 317

North

x-Pittsburgh 13 0 0 .857 323 220

Baltimore 8 6 0 .571 280 225

Cincinnati 10 0 0 .714 313 340

Cleveland 3 11 0 .214 247 366

West

x-San Diego 11 0 0 .786 391 362

San Francisco 9 6 0 .600 348 390

Kansas City 7 8 0 .467 461 411

Oakland 5 10 0 .333 314 429

### National Conference

**East**

x-Philadelphia 13 0 0 .857 369 302

Atlanta 10 0 0 .714 327 367

N.Y. Giants 9 6 0 .571 323 340

Washington 7 8 0 .467 328 324

South

x-Atlanta 11 0 0 .786 301 283

Carolina 6 8 0 .429 308 328

New Orleans 6 6 0 .571 301 314

Tampa Bay 5 9 0 .357 274 255

North

x-Green Bay 9 6 0 .600 373 366

Chicago 7 8 0 .429 307 356

Minnesota 5 9 0 .357 304 281

Seattle 7 7 0 .500 319 326

St. Louis 6 8 0 .429 307 356

Arizona 5 9 0 .357 274 255

San Francisco

x-Clinched division

**Friday's games**

**Saturday's games**

**Sunday's games**

**Monday's game**

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**January 3, Jan. 3**

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**May 13, May 13**

# Packers dedicate division-clincher to teammate

## WR Ferguson still experiencing numbness in side after clothesline hit

BY ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

This one was for Fergie.  
The Green Bay Packers dedicated their division-clinching victory over Minnesota on Christmas Eve to wide receiver Robert Ferguson, who is still experiencing numbness on his left side a week after a clothesline hit by Donovan Darius that drew a \$75,000 fine from the NFL.

As the Packers celebrated their third straight NFC North crown, they carried coaches' greaseboards inscribed with "Ferg 89" and "4 U Fergie."

"This one's for you!" wide receiver Donald Driver yelled into his cell phone after the Packers' 34-31 victory.

Ferguson didn't make the trip

after taking a vicious hit that left him temporarily paralyzed below the waist and in the hospital for two days. His return this season is uncertain.

Ferguson gave his teammates a pep talk at Lambeau Field on Thursday before they flew to Minneapolis. Even though he stayed back, the Packers set up his locker at the Metrodome with his No. 89 jersey as though he were going to play.

And coach Mike Sherman awarded Ferguson a game ball after the Packers triumphed on Ryan Longwell's fourth game-winning field goal in the last seven weeks.

"This game is for Fergie because Fergie is the heart and soul of this football team in many ways," Sherman said, referring to

the fourth-year receiver who is noted for playing through pain.

"He types what you want as a Green Bay Packerman because he lays it out every day in practice and every game."

With Ferguson sidelined, the Packers promoted Andrea Thurman from their practice squad and he caught two passes Friday, including Brett Favre's first one.

Jaxon Walker caught five passes for 90 yards, including a blitz-beater from the Vikings' 38 with 25 seconds left that covered 31 yards to set up Longwell's winner.

Favre, who won for the third time in his last five trips to the Metrodome, released the ball just as he was getting pummeled by the unblocked blitz.

Driver had 11 catches for 162

yards and a game-tying touchdown on fourth-and-goal with 3:34 left. His biggest reception, however, was a 20-yarder on third-and-10 from the Vikings 20 at the start of the winning drive.

"They didn't just do it today," Sherman said. "They've done it all year long. A few years ago people were concerned that we didn't have quality receivers, but I think there's an exclamation point after our receivers this year that we haven't done."

Walker, a Pro Bowl pick, has 86 catches for 1,300 yards and 11 TDs, and Driver has 83 receptions for 1,160 yards and a career-high nine scores. But the receiver on everybody's mind was home, enjoying the game on TV.

"It was won for Fergie, there's no doubt about it," Favre said. "He's a huge part of this team, even if he didn't make it today."



**Green Bay Packers WR Jaxon Walker carries a sign with the name of injured Robert Ferguson after the Packers' 34-31 victory over the Minnesota Vikings on Friday in Minneapolis.**

## Pats' Faulk, Johnson out for Jets game

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Running back Kevin Faulk and wide receiver Bethel Johnson are among the New England Patriots who will miss Sunday's game against the New York Jets.

Team spokesman Stacey James said cornerback Randall Gay, safety Dexter Reid and linebacker Matt Chatham have also had their conditions downgraded and will miss the game.

Reid had been listed as doubtful with a shoulder injury, while Gay was questionable with an arm injury and the flu. The Patriots' defensive secondary has already been hard-hit by injuries, with Tyrone Poole and Ty Law missing most of the season and Asante Samuel listed as questionable for Sunday's game with a shoulder injury.

The loss of Faulk (knee) and Johnson (thigh) also leaves the Patriots without two of their top kick returners.

Chatham, who has played in five games this season, had been listed as questionable with a hamstring injury.

Law, who has missed the last seven weeks with a broken bone in his left foot he suffered in the October 31st game at Pittsburgh, is listed as questionable.

### Giants place Hand on IR

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants placed defensive tackle Norman Hand on injured reserve Saturday, ending his season.

Hand, a 10-year NFL veteran, had not played since injuring his groin in a Nov. 28 game against Philadelphia. He had 15 tackles and one sack this season.

The team also signed offensive lineman Morgan Pears to its practice squad.

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## SPORTS



Pistons win peaceful  
rematch with Pacers,  
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# Defensive great White dies at 43

**Cause of death  
uncertain for  
former NFL  
sack leader**

*The Associated Press*

HUNTERSVILLE, N.C. — Reggie White, one of the greatest defensive players in NFL history, died Sunday, his wife said. He was 43.

"Today our beloved husband, father and friend passed away," White's wife, Sara, said in a statement through a family pastor. "His family appreciates your thoughts and prayers as we mourn the loss of Reggie White. We want to thank you in advance for honoring our privacy."

A cause of death was not immediately known.

A two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year, White played a total of 15 years with Philadelphia, Green Bay and Carolina. He retired in 2000 as the NFL's career leader in sacks with 198. The mark has since been passed by Bruce Smith.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of one of the greatest men ever to play the game of football," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said in a statement. "On behalf of the entire Eagles family, our condolences go out to his wife, Sara, to his children, and to all those who have been touched by Reggie throughout his life. His legacy on and off the football field will never be forgotten."

A member of the NFL's 75th anniversary team, White was elected to the Pro Bowl a record 13 straight times from 1986-98. He was the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year in 1987 and 1998, and was also an ordained minister.

He began his career with the Memphis Showboats of the USFL in 1984, and joined the Philadelphia Eagles, who held his NFL rights, after the USFL folded in 1985.



MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/AP

Former Green Bay Packers defensive end Reggie White shows his intensity in this 1997 file photo. White, 43, died Sunday of a heart attack at his home in Huntersville, N.C., his wife Sara said. White was a two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year during his 15 years in the league.

After eight years as an integral piece in Philadelphia's "Gang Green Defense," White signed as a free agent with Green Bay in 1993 for \$17 million over four years, huge for that era. His signing, along with a trade for quarterback Brett Favre, brought a measure of respectability back to the

franchise and he was the first major black player to sign with the Packers as a free agent.

His decision to choose the Packers was a surprise. During much of his tour to various teams, he suggested he would prefer a major city, where he could minister to black youth.

"That's what changed the football fortunes of this franchise. It was huge," Packers President Bob Harlan said Sunday of White's signing. "Everyone thought the last place he would sign was Green Bay and it was monumental because not only did he sign but he recruited for

Green Bay and got guys like Sean Jones to come here.

"He sent a message to the rest of the NFL that Green Bay was a great place to play and before that this was a place people didn't want to come."

**SEE WHITE ON PAGE 30**

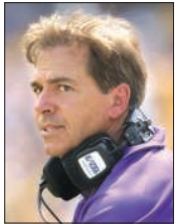
**O'Neal fouls  
out, but Bryant  
misses chance  
to lift Lakers  
past former  
teammate**

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**LSU's Saban  
makes leap  
to NFL, accepting  
five-year deal  
to coach Dolphins**

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**USC's Leinart,  
Auburn's Tuberville  
are selected  
as AP's player,  
coach of the year**

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